

SPEECHES OF LORD HARDINGE

SPEECHES

OF

His Excellency The Right Hon'ble

BARON HARDINGE OF PENSHURST

G.C.B., G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.M.I.E., G.C.V.O., I.S.O., C.V.O.

Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

Vol. I

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

“WHO is the Happy Warrior whom every man in arms should wish to be?” This question was asked by the poet at a time when men’s thoughts and energies were occupied with war and the overthrow of a man whom they had identified with the enemy of civilization, and answered by the poet in a matchless delineation of an ideal hero. There is equal need at the present moment in India for the picture of a calm and self-balanced Administrator, such as every man in authority should wish to be, who would by sheer moral force lay the monster of misunderstanding and hatred and rear up in this land a system of government in which the will of the rulers and the ruled shall more and more approximate. For such a portrait the original is supplied by the Ruler of India whose speeches are herein brought together. These form a lucid exposition of his spirit and aims. There is about them none of the glint and glitter of heartless oratory. They are as closely wedded to

honest purpose as to clear-headed action. Springing out of the one they lead naturally to the other. Will, word and work are but points in a straight line.

These speeches serve one great purpose. They help the people to enter with sympathy and understanding into the workings of the Vice-regal mind. The revelation of the Royal mind and character has gone a great way towards convincing the Indian people that England means the best by them. In the revelation of the Vice-regal mind of Lord Hardinge is to be seen the heart of England in its daily strivings with the complicated and multitudinous problems which have to be solved before India can be said to be fairly started on her course of progressive political, social and industrial life. These speeches are like a crystal dome covering a piece of clock-work, revealing the movement of every wheel, great and small, in the wonderful mechanism within. They reveal a personality at once tactful and transparent, polite and bold, sympathetic and cleared-eyed and firm-willed. The more the character of Lord Hardinge is understood, the more easy will the work of governing India become.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Attempts are made all over the country to infuse into the mind of young India the spirit of loyalty and devotion to the British Government. Loyalty cannot, in our opinion, be effectually taught in the abstract, nor can it be inculcated by recounting past services. Gratitude is too slender a virtue to withstand the strain of present grievance. Loyalty is best created by the presentation of a personality in action which means well and strives to do good. 'He went about doing good.' This appeals to the human heart more than elaborate disquisitions about virtue. It is in pursuance of this method of creating love for the Government that these 'noble breathings of the Vice-regal mind' are presented to the public, and we feel confident that they will result in a rich harvest of peace and good-will throughout the land.

For Wisdom dealt with mortal powers,
Where truth in closest words shall fail,
When truth embodied in a tale
Shall enter in at lowly doors.

And so the Word had breath, and wrought
With human hands the creed of creeds
In loveliness of perfect deeds
More strong than all poetic thought ;

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Which he may read who binds the sheaf,
Or builds the house, or digs the grave,
And those wild eyes that watch the wave
In roarings round the coral reef.

MADRAS, }
20th February, 1913.)

O. K. C.

Lord Hardinge—An appreciation.

LORD HARDINGE came to this country with a very high reputation. He had held high Ambassadorial offices, having been employed successively at Constantinople, Berlin, Washington, Sofia, Bucharest, Teheran and St. Petersburg, while as permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign Office (1906—1910), it was his good fortune to take part in the completion of the great International settlement known as the Anglo-Russian Convention. In fact, it is true to say that his career is summed up in the two words—Russia and India. The main object and effect of his work has been to remove from India the menace of war with Russia. It is the commonplace of international politics that the Anglo-Russian Convention dominates the diplomacy of two Continents. Its supreme justification consists in the fact that it has compelled peace in Tibet, has removed the nightmare of complications on the North-West Frontier, and has ensured conditions making for the eventual peaceful evolution of a new Persia, which, at any rate, shall not fall a helpless prey

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to the aggressive anti-British designs of any foreign Power. It was indeed a fortunate thing for India that the statesman who had played so great a part in the diplomatic negotiations resulting in the Anglo-Russian Convention should have been called to the highest office under the British Crown in India, to carry out the policy of the Convention, to fulfil its objects and justify its beneficent aims.

It is beyond the scope of this short sketch to dwell on the larger aspects of the International Policy of which the Anglo-Russian Convention constitutes a notable expression. It is well, however, to note in passing what India owes to the gifted statesman and the tact, sagacity and self-possession of the far-seeing diplomatist whose labour for India began long before he came to India. An otherwise well-informed critic, writing after the announcement of Lord Hardinge's appointment, doubted whether his lordship possessed the qualities of imagination and sympathy. The criticism was singularly short-sighted. Who can deny imagination to the Viceroy who executed the splendid, moving pageantry of the Royal Visit? Who can deny sympathy to the Viceroy who pacified

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Bengal? Then, again, it was said that the "arts of diplomacy" were out of place in the Indian Administration. If the implication was that Lord Hardinge was deficient in the qualities of directness and sincerity, the criticism is obviously unjust and entirely wide of the mark. Who can deny the qualities of directness and sincerity to the Viceroy who conceived the educational ideals to be embodied in the new Dacca University, to the pattern of which, it is sincerely to be hoped, every Indian University, official or non-official, will in due time approximate? It must be apparent to the least informed that the reforms in higher education desiderated in some of the earliest of His Excellency's speeches were the outcome of deep thought and patient investigation of the existing circumstances of University life and education. Lord Curzon would have fussed prodigiously about it: delivered speeches of portentous length: inspired and directed a press campaign in England: and enthused in his favourite fashion until everybody was made to believe that a new earth and a new heaven were about to be created. Is it conceivable that Lord Curzon would have made the private visit to Calcutta hostels which

saw the beginning of the most fruitful reform in the educational sphere which Lord Hardinge has undertaken? And yet that sensational visit was intended to be strictly private, and it was due to a pure accident—and a happy journalistic indiscretion—that it was ever known to the public. Lord Hardinge's methods of educational reform would perhaps not have had the approval of Barrum; but what a perfect example they are of quiet, effective organisation and wise, well thought out adaptation of means to ends! His Excellency says exactly what he means. His methods are straight and simple. The fact is, the traditional arts of diplomacy are strikingly absent in everything Lord Hardinge has said or done during the stressful two years that have elapsed since he assumed charge from Lord Minto. The man is better than his training; the statesman always triumphs over the diplomatist. No Viceroy in recent times has excelled Lord Hardinge in the art of going straight to the point. In this respect, he reminds one of Lord Dalhousie. Suavity—yes, in abundance; but suavity which is not put on as a mere disguise. Blandly expressing intentions which you never seriously entertained is perhaps a trick of diplo-

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macy; but Lord Hardinge has great work to do and means to do it. Patient, disdaining empty popular applause, or thoughtless, however vociferous, detraction, Lord Hardinge plans wisely, acts swiftly. Strong and tireless, His Excellency stands out the type of ruler India wants.

This is not meant to be a critical introduction to a volume of speeches which speak for themselves; such an introduction would be as needless as a sermon before a surloin. All that is attempted is a general estimate of Lord Hardinge's work. That work, such as it is, is well-nigh completed; only the worry of seeing the details through remains. It is the good, or ill, fortune of most Viceroys to be treated to a lot of more or less well-meant advice tendered by more or less competent, more or less disinterested parties. Lord Hardinge had more than his share of such advice. Of course, he was asked to rule by blood and iron. He was directed as to the minutest details of the administration of the "strong" measures enacted by his predecessor. Needless to say that Lord Hardinge has carefully avoided doing anything of the sort. Some of his most notable acts illustrate the tendency not to let the

administration lose its head, which is perhaps the most striking feature of Lord Hardinge's policy in regard to what is conveniently designated the Indian Unrest. His refusal to go on with the Khulna case is one example: the restraint he put upon the Police after the appalling infamy of December 23rd 1912, is another.

The strong ruler determined to be just! That, we think, will be recognised by future generations as most characteristic achievement of Lord Hardinge's administration. As many knew before and after Pliny, "No one is wise at all hours." It is possible Lord Hardinge has made mistakes; it would indeed be wonderful if he did not make mistakes. A recent writer succinctly states some of the difficulties of the most difficult post in the Empire: "Its holder is very isolated and needs an extraordinary amount of self-reliance. He is tolerably certain to meet with opposition in India, in some form or other, during the earlier years of his control. If he has the approbation of Indian public opinion, he will probably encounter severe criticism from the Services. If he too visibly takes a Service view of prominent questions, he may expect attacks from

the vernacular press and from garrulous Indian politicians. But he was not to reckon with India alone. He must also keep one eye on London. Strained relations with the Secretary of State or with the minor magnates of the India Office may at any moment seriously embarrass his policy. There is always the possibility of antagonism from the small but very vocal groups in Parliament which make India their peculiar care. A potent source of annoyance, rather than of practical difficulty, is the occasional enmity manifested in the vague floating gossip of London society, where the doings of a Viceroy of India are sometimes discussed with petty rancour and without much regard for accuracy. It may be thought that the head of the great Government of India can at least afford to be indifferent to irresponsible London chatter about his work. He cannot quite do so. In the last resort India is governed from London. The subtle poison spreads and embitters. It may at any moment affect not only the popular judgment in England, but even the actual decisions upon great issues. An atmosphere of disapprobation in London may at times be very hampering, although it is generally so

intangible that it cannot be effectively combated." It will be observed that the writer of the foregoing extract omits to mention the influence of the atmosphere of disapprobation nearer home—the subtle poison which spreads and embitters everything and which has its origin in the hostility of the non-official European community concentrated in Calcutta. It was Lord Hardinge's misfortune to meet the fury of this hostile opinion in full blast. It is true His Excellency met it with splendid courage, and supreme disdain; but due allowance must be made for the existence and influence of this hostility not only upon what passes for "contemporary opinion" in this country but upon what is reflected of it in the London Press. It is beside the purpose of the present sketch to discuss the grounds of Calcutta's hostility to Lord Hardinge or to pronounce upon its value and importance. There is, however, no gainsaying the fact that its bitterness, thoughtlessness and unscrupulousness have proved a source of embarrassment to the Government of India and of endless annoyance to its distinguished head.

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BANQUET TO LORD HARDINGE BY THE COUNTY OF KENT.

[A Banquet was given, on the night of the 20 October, 1910, at the Savoy Hotel, London, by the County of Kent to Lord Hardinge of Penshurst on his appointment as Governor-General and Viceroy of India. The Chair was occupied by Lord Camd. Lord Lieutenant of Kent, and among those present were, in addition to the guest of the evening, Lord Cromer, Lord G. Hamilton, Lord Darnley, Lord Hardinge, Lord Goschen, Sir W. Hart Dyke, Lord Weardale, the Dean of Canterbury, the Dean of Rochester, Lord Stanhope, Lord Falmouth, Lord Harris, Lord Northbourne, Lord H. Nevill, Lord Errington, Lord Cranley, Sir Eric Barrington, W. E. Garstin, Sir W. Allchin, Mr. L. Harcourt, M.P., Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., Sir W. Barrington, Sir C. Cartwright, Sir A. Wollaston, Sir Mar Samuel, Sir R. West, Sir Fortescue Flannery, J. Furley, Sir H. Lennard, Colonel Sir J. R. D. Lop-Smith, Sir G. S. Mackenzie, Sir F. Lely,

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S. Edgerley, and the Mayors of Bromley Rochester, Faversham, Maidstone, Margate, Ramsgate, and Gillingham, and the Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, who was cordially received, said]:—

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN:—I am most profoundly touched by the very exceptional compliment that has been paid to me in the Address that I have received, which, with its enormous array of names, has assumed such a charming form as that of an album containing views of our beloved County, a picture of our victorious cricket eleven, and reproductions of other interesting objects connected with Kent. My attention has been drawn to the fact that among the long list of signatures is that of a lady of Burstead, who is over 101 years of age, and who has signed her name with her own hand. Although I have not the honour of the lady's acquaintance, I should like to express to her on behalf of us all our congratulations and hope that she may still have many years of health and happiness before her. (*Cheers*).

I thank you all most cordially, as well as all those who have signed the address and who

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unfortunately are unable to be here to-night, for the congratulations contained in it and for the good wishes expressed on behalf of Lady Hardinge and myself. I can only assure you that this charming album will always be regarded by me and my family as a unique and priceless treasure, and that, when lying on my table at Calcutta or Simla, it will serve as a perpetual encouragement to me to prove myself worthy of my County in the fulfilment of my duties, with the certain knowledge that in so doing I shall have the full sympathy and support of you all. (*Cheers*). It has always been to me a source of regret that owing to my duties abroad in the Diplomatic Service, I have seen during the last thirty years so little of my County and of my friends in the County; but, although in the course of my wanderings I have had many temporary homes in distant lands, I have never felt that any one of them could compete in my love and affection for the home of my childhood and youth, with its wooded slopes and smiling hop gardens and orchards that are so familiar to all of us, Kentish men and men of Kent (*Cheers*). My thoughts have, however, always been with you, and among many other notable and recent events connected with our

County I have watched with the utmost pride and pleasure the triumphant progress of our cricket team from one Championship to another, and in these days when people talk of the decadence of our race I have hugged to myself the conviction that, wherever else decadence may be found, it is not to be found in the County of Kent, and that the sons of Kent are still worthy, as they ever have been, of the proud motto of their County—"Invicta." (*Cheers*).

Now that I am about to take up the great task that has been confided to me in our Indian Empire, it is a great satisfaction to realise how the traditions of my family and the surroundings of my childhood have all these years been quietly preparing me for my new duties, and have inspired me with a sympathy and interest in India and all that is connected with India that otherwise might have been lukewarm. Surrounded as I have been during my youth by Indian works of art brought home by my grandfather and by my father, by books on India, and by pictures containing views of India and the ordinary episodes of Indian life, I cannot help feeling that much that I shall see for the first time when I reach India will be familiar to me, at least in imagination, and

that the dazzling snow-tops of the Himalayas and the glowing sunsets on the Ganges will not be entirely strange or new. (*Hear, hear*). It has been said, and with perhaps some truth, that it is unfortunate that I have had no previous experience in India. I confess that I myself would like to feel that I had greater knowledge of the internal affairs of India than I now possess; but, on the other hand, it may be urged, with equal and perhaps even greater force, that I go to India with a mind absolutely free from bias or prejudice that might otherwise have influenced me in considering and dealing with the vast and intricate social and political problems that must necessarily confront me from the very day that I set foot for the first time on Indian soil. (*Cheers*). Again, although I have still to look forward to acquiring a thorough knowledge of the internal situation in India, I think I may say truthfully and without exaggeration that during the last fifteen years of my work in the Diplomatic Service and Foreign Office few people have been so favoured as I have been in being brought into close contact with the weightiest issues upon which the external relations of India with her co-terminous neighbours depend

and which affect not merely the external policy of India alone but the policy of Imperial unity as a whole.

It was in 1896 that I was sent by Lord Salisbury to Persia, and it was there that I fully realised for the first time the senseless rivalry that actuated British and Russian foreign policy in Persia and Central Asia, by which not only were the political and material interests of two Great Powers, and also of India, adversely affected, but the commercial and political development of the countries which formed the object of this rivalry were at the same time seriously impeded. It was after 18 months spent in Teheran that I was moved on to St. Petersburg, and it did not take long for me to acquire there the absolute conviction that the intrigues and counter-intrigues of British and Russian Agents in Persia and Central Asia constituted in reality a serious menace to European peace, and at the same time entailed on Indian revenues heavy military expenditure in defensive and precautionary measures. Although this is happily now past history, which I truly believe will never repeat itself, I think I may say without a breach of confidence that during the closing years of the last century and

the opening years of the present, although our relations with Russia were what in diplomatic language is called "correct," they could only by a stretch of the imagination have been described as "friendly." The Russian menace was always before us, and the possibility of a Russian invasion of India, the perpetual bugbear of our military authorities both in Pall Mall and Calcutta. I have grave doubts as to whether such projects were ever seriously contemplated in those days by the Russian Government, but the mere mention of them was quite sufficient to work up the people and Press of both countries to fever heat in angry polemics and active opposition to each other in Asia. (*Cheers*). It should not be forgotten that the long succession of Afghan Wars, and lastly, the expedition to Lhasa, with the immense and useless expenditure of life and treasure that they entailed, were largely due to antagonism to Russia and to the fear of Russian aggression. It was, if I may venture without presumption to say so, a masterstroke of policy on the part of Lord Lansdowne, when Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to have first initiated negotiations with the Russian Government to put an end to this situation of veiled hostility

fraught with danger to Great Britain and Russia and to the Indian Empire. Unfortunately, Lord Lansdowne's efforts bore no immediate fruit, owing to the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War, during the course of which the negotiations remained necessarily in abeyance. The postponement was happily only temporary, for almost immediately after the conclusion of the War and the accession of the present Government to office, Sir E. Grey, my late Chief, for whom I entertain feelings of the greatest respect and affection (*Cheers*), at once reopened negotiations with the Russian Government, and within eighteen months brought them to a satisfactory conclusion (*Cheers*). The Convention that was then concluded has already withstood the test of trial and has substituted relations of friendship and confidence where hostility and distrust had hitherto prevailed. It has been observed by both parties to it with the utmost loyalty, and has happily resulted in the mutual co-operation of the two Powers for the maintenance of peace in Asia. The advantage to India of this peaceful development is incalculable, since the Russian menace has been dispelled and the bogey of a Russian invasion has been laid, thus giving

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greater opportunity and freedom to those entrusted with administration in India to consider many social problems affecting the welfare and development of the Indian people. (*Cheers*). It is only right that I should here add that this successful issue was largely promoted by the beneficent influence of our great and deeply regretted Sovereign King Edward VII. (*Cheers*), and by the Emperor of Russia, who, to my personal knowledge, has always been a strong advocate of friendly and peaceful relations between his country and our own.

I have referred to this matter at some length, not only to point out the inestimable value to India of the Convention concluded with Russia three years ago, which, I think, has never been fully appreciated in India, but to give at the same time one example out of many of how closely diplomacy is connected with all of the numerous questions affecting the external relations of the Indian Empire. (*Cheers*).

As for internal conditions in India, I can, as I have already said, only lay claim to a superficial knowledge of them; but there are certain obvious principles which it must be the duty

of every responsible administrator to follow. Mr. Montagu, the Under-Secretary of State for India, in his very able speech on the Indian Budget, wound up by quoting an extract of a letter from the great Sir R. Peel to my grandfather on his appointment to the post of Governor-General of India, and in his concluding remarks proffered advice to me in the same sense. You will, I am sure, pardon me if I repeat this short and interesting quotation:—"If," wrote Sir R. Peel, "you can keep peace, reduce expenses, extend commerce, and strengthen our hold on India by confidence in our justice and kindness and wisdom, you will be received here on your return with acclamations a thousand times louder and a welcome infinitely more cordial than if you had a dozen victories to boast of." (*Cheers*). These were wise words and as true and applicable now as they were when written more than sixty years ago. I have laid them to heart, but had Sir Robert lived now during this period of transition in India when some of the old landmarks are being removed to give a wider scope to the intelligence and intellectual ability of our Indian fellow-subjects, he would, I think, have given some additional advice, possibly on the following lines--that the new Viceroy should

watch over with the utmost care and vigilance and do his utmost to consolidate the beneficent and far-reaching scheme of Reforms introduced by Lord Morley and Lord Minto—(*Cheers*)—for associating the people of India more closely with the management of their own affairs. He might also have added that the Viceroy should strain every nerve to conciliate all races, classes and creeds. My Lords and Gentlemen, it will be my humble duty honestly to endeavour to follow the precepts so clearly laid down by Sir R. Peel and those that I have had the temerity to suggest as likely additions had that eminent statesman lived in our day, and in pursuing this course I shall be fortified by the profound sympathy and regard that I entertain and have always entertained for our Indian fellow-subjects and by my earnest desire to contribute at least something to their material welfare and development. (*Cheers*).

Lord Minto's administration will always become memorable as a landmark in the era of Reform, and he will bequeath to me a new *regime* already in force though still young in development. It will be my task to foster this young plant with tender care, and at the same time to see that the word "government" is syno-

the insistent and generous hospitality of my friends at this juncture, I think that I might still have succeeded in evading any obligations in this respect until I leave these shores. I fully realise, however, that from the moment I reach the shores of India it will frequently be my duty to break forth in speech, a prospect that is a little alarming to a person of a would-be retiring disposition, who has always a feeling of intense compassion for Secretaries of State and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries, who from their places in Parliament have to explain and sometimes to condone the actions and shortcomings of their permanent and subordinate officials like myself. There are, however, so many new experiences, new duties, and new responsibilities that will greet me in India that I sometimes feel almost dazed at the prospect, and begin to think that after all speech-making may prove to be only a lesser evil.

During the last few weeks my thoughts have naturally turned to India and to some matters relating to India which have their connexions in England itself. Amongst these I have thought a good deal of the position of Indian students in this country, and a short time ago I had an interesting conversation

with an Indian gentleman of great ability, who has made it his business to be in touch with some of the large number of Indian students who are working in our universities, hospitals, and law schools; and the account he gave me was not very encouraging and provided me with food for serious reflection. Most of these young students are young men of good family in India, often sent at considerable sacrifice by their parents, who are some of the most loyal of our fellow-subjects in India, in order that their sons may obtain a good education in England and associate with English gentlemen of good repute and social position. Unfortunately, whether the fault be with the English or the Indian students, or with their masters and teachers, I hear that they mix rarely together in our universities and law schools, and that the Indian students are exposed to evil influences and temptations that can only be resisted successfully by a strong moral sense of right and duty. I have heard of regrettable instances of attempts at seditious and disloyal propaganda amongst the students, but I trust that the poison has not sunk deep. It should, I think, be the duty of every one to do all in his power to assist and protect the

Indian students from all pernicious influences, whether at the universities or elsewhere, and at the same time to make their lives happy in this country while in pursuit of their studies. (*Cheers*). It should be always remembered that these young men when they return to India, whatever their sentiments may be, will be the flower of the educated minority in that country, and will be in a position by their ability and learning to exercise influence on many whether for right or wrong.

I only wish that a leaf could be taken from the practice at Harrow School, where only two months ago I witnessed an incident which I am told is an everyday occurrence. I am so fortunate as to have a boy at Harrow, and I went there to see him and to watch a cricket match. As is expected of parents on such occasions I took my son to have a large and heavy tea at the Harrow teashop where I saw numerous other boys in groups of two and three sitting at small tables and enjoying themselves. Presently I noticed an Indian boy enter with two other boys, and sitting down together at a small table order tea for themselves. I could not help noticing the friendly comraderie that existed between the three boys, who were evi-

dently on the best of terms together. I asked my son whether Indian boys were at any disadvantage at Harrow in comparison with other boys, and he assured me that not the slightest difference is made, and that Indian boys are treated by other boys as being on a footing of perfect equality with them. This is as it should be, and were it so elsewhere I cannot help feeling that the life of an Indian student in England might be made happier than it now is. I know that Lord Morley has made efforts during the last few years to improve the position of the Indian students, but there is still much that might be done which must necessarily be left to private initiative and to the good feeling of their English fellow-students. I have ventured to refer to this question to-night as I regard it as one of Imperial concern to the future of our Empire, and I believe that a little kindness shown to these young men would repay itself a thousandfold by the spread in India of a warmer spirit of loyalty and devotion to the Empire. (*Cheers*).

{[I have already referred to the impressions of duty and responsibility that are acquired during school and college life, of which the value cannot be unduly exaggerated. I think

it will not be disputed when I say that it is upon the highest conception by the British nation of their duty and responsibility towards India that the whole structure of British administration in India has been founded ever since the affairs of the East India Company were taken over by the British Government. We have in the past and present endeavoured to govern India for the benefit of India and our Indian fellow-subjects, and we are doing a work in Asia such as has never been attempted by any other nation. (*Cheers*). We have recognised our duty and responsibility towards India by our efforts to promote the progress and to improve the material condition of the people, while maintaining the Pax Britannica, without undue interference with their religions and prejudices. It can never be said of the British Government, as was said by Canning of the Dutch, that they were fond of giving too little and asking too much. We have given India our best, and all that we ask for in return is loyalty and progress. (*Cheers*).

I see no reason to doubt the loyalty of the great masses in India, and there can be no question whatever as to the progressive development of the Indian people. The recent reforms

introduced by Lord Morley are conclusive proof of intellectual progress in India, and should have a pacifying and conciliatory effect. One hears and reads in the Press a good deal on the subject of unrest in India. Although there have been dastardly crimes during the last two or three years that seem so entirely foreign to the nature and natural temperament of our Indian fellow-subjects, it is difficult to imagine that such wicked crimes, of which the origin is still somewhat obscure, could be more than the benighted action of a misguided few, for the recent and spontaneous outburst of loyalty and devotion to the Crown on the death of our great and deeply-regretted King was striking evidence of the intense loyalty of the vast majority of the Indian people. (*Cheers*). I may be wrong, but I am full of hope that the unrest in India will disappear under the influence of sympathy and kindness combined with firmness and that it will give place to a period of calm and of prosperous commercial and agricultural expansion. (*Cheers*).

In a few days' time I shall be leaving these shores for a nominal term of five years in India. I imagine that the period of the hardest work of my life is before me. Whether it be possible during such a period for a man to

make any permanent impression may be a question open to discussion, but I cannot help thinking that a limitation of the term of office of Viceroy was a wise provision, for there must also be a limit to the powers of endurance of the continual strain that is inevitable and inherent to the office. I hope that it is not unnatural that I should feel some diffidence as to my ability to fulfil adequately the duties and responsibilities that have been confided to me and to grapple with the stupendous problems that will confront me at every turn, but I think that I can have no higher ideal than to endeavour to follow in the footsteps of my distinguished Harrovian predecessors, amongst whom occur the illustrious names of Hastings, Wellesley and Dalhousie. (*Cheers*). It would be presumptuous on my part to imagine for an instant that I could ever aspire to distinction such as theirs, but, although I cannot hope to add anything to the lustre of our Alma Mater, it will be my honest endeavour to do nothing to detract from it, and always to be true to the honour of Harrow, our great and dearly cherished School, with the certain knowledge that I can absolutely rely on the sympathy and confidence of my Harrow school fellows and friends. (*Cheers*).

ARRIVAL IN INDIA: BOMBAY'S WELCOME.

[Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Hardinge, and the Hon'ble Mr. Diamond Hardinge, landed at the Apollo Bunder at 8 A.M. on the 18th November, 1910, under a Royal salute of 31 guns, fired in the stream by H.M.S. Hyacinth, the Flagship of the East Indies Squadron.]

A deputation from the Government House boarded the steamer before the landing and returned with the Viceregal party to the Bunder. Immediately Their Excellencies stepped out of the launch, they were cordially welcomed by H. E. Sir George and Lady Clarke, who conducted them up the steps, over which was displayed, in a beautifully erected shamiana, the Coat of Arms of the new Viceroy. A brilliant gathering of Officers of the Public Services and Indian notabilities and the Foreign Consuls was in attendance; and all the Civil, Military and Naval officers present, as also the members of Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Municipal Councillors, were introduced to Lord Hardinge.

The Viceroy was conducted to a specially erected dais, where the Municipal Address was presented by the President.

His Excellency in reply said]:—

I thank you very warmly for the Address that you have presented and for the kindly welcome you have extended to me on setting foot for the first time upon the shores of India. I am grateful for the appreciative reference to my grandfather's services in India, and in assuming the burden and responsibilities of the great service that has been confided to me I take courage from his example. Much as he desired peace, it was his fate and misfortune to be involved in an internal war, but he nevertheless succeeded during the course of his administration in contributing to the material advancement of the people of India. Times have changed since then, when the appointment of an Indian servant to be a Deputy Magistrate was regarded as a remarkable concession and innovation; but the present and future are rife with problems of a more complex nature and more difficult character than those of the past. It shall be my aim to face this with courage and sympathy and to maintain the policy initiated by Lord Minto, who has so calmly and steadily met the difficulties of the past five years and is so soon to bid you good-bye.

With the city of Bombay I have an older and even closer link than through my grand-

father, for I am told that in the Cathedral of your city there is a monument which, according to the inscription it bears, was erected by the public spirit of Bombay to consecrate the memory of Captain George Nicholas Hardinge, of the Royal Navy, who fell for British India in the moment of victory after a three days' combat and the capture, off the coast of Ceylon, of a large French frigate which had been the terror of the Indian seas. This was my great uncle and the naval engagement took place 102 years ago.

You will not expect me to make any pronouncement at the present moment upon the two questions of great, though local, importance upon which you have touched in your Address. 'It is not unlikely' that they may come before me in future, in which case you may rest assured that your views and wishes will receive my earnest and careful consideration. I share your hope that your great and beautiful city may continue to advance in the path of progress and prosperity, and there is every reason to be hopeful for the future when we look back upon the past. Two and a half centuries ago Bombay was described by one writer as "only a poor little island," but even in those times one of

the greatest of your Governors, who must have been imbued with prophetic instinct, spoke of it as "a city which by God's assistance is intended to be built," and you have now another Governor like him, to whom you can confidently turn for help and guidance in all matters affecting the prosperity and progressive development of "Bombay the beautiful."

Since my arrival in this port this morning, my attention has been drawn to a telegram which has come from England, to the effect that Their Most Gracious Majesties the King Emperor and Queen-Empress have resolved to come to India to hold a Durbar on the 1st January, 1912. I have no official confirmation of this news at present, but I think that I shall voice the opinion and feelings of India when I say that we devoutly hope that this may be fulfilled, and that we may have an opportunity of giving His Majesty the most cordial welcome that has ever been offered to any Sovereign by their most loyal and devoted subjects.

On behalf of Lady Hardinge, I thank you for your words of cordial welcome and I can confidently assure you that it will be a source of happiness to her to do what she can in her

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own proper sphere to contribute to the welfare and needs of the women in India.

In expressing to you once more my warm appreciation of your address, allow me to thank you, Mr. President and gentlemen, for the beautiful casket in which it is enclosed.

THE BOMBAY MOSLEM LEAGUE.

[The Bombay Moslem League presented an Address to H. E. Lord Hardinge on the 18th November, 1910; to which he made the following reply]:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Bombay Presidency Moslem League,—I thank you warmly for your Address and for the friendly terms in which it is couched. I am hardly qualified on this first day of sojourn in India to discuss with you the propriety of expressing the principle of communal representation, but I do most heartily welcome the note of confidence and hope which is struck by your Address. Your aspirations have been very fully recognised in the recent enlargement of the Councils. Your community has received special treatment and I am glad to hear that you appreciate the obligations which those privileges carry. I trust that it will ever be your aim while promoting the interests of your own community to avoid anything which may tend to emphasise those sectarian differences which must exist but need not be accentuated. I shall always be ready to lend a sympathetic ear to any expression of Mahomedan views and

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feelings, but you must remember that a spirit of self-restraint will add greatly to your influence, and that special privileges to one class are synonymous with corresponding disabilities to others.

I have listened with the greatest pleasure to the loyal sentiments which you have expressed in such well-chosen language, and I feel confident that His Majesty will be gratified to hear of the feelings of devotion which animate his Moslem subjects. For my own part, I thank you for the kindly terms in which you have referred to my appointment. It is my fervent hope that my tenure of office may be marked not only by peace without the borders but by concord within

THE BOMBAY NATIVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[The Native Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, presented an address and in reply Lord Hardinge said]:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau :—The very kindly reference you have made to my grandfather's career cannot but strike gratefully upon my ears. But when he set his hand to the work that lay before him he could have hardly foreseen the immense development that the next sixty years held in store, and if he was actuated by sentiments similar to those with which I have followed his footsteps to India, he would have been particularly gratified to know of the birth and rapid growth of indigenous enterprise. It is sometimes alleged that the people of this country look too much to Government and too little to themselves for the initiation of improvements and the development of resources, but the figures you have quoted show that this is hardly accurate in the region of commercial enterprise, except in so far as the peace and security afforded by

a Government have made it possible. Government should clearly do what they can to foster indigenous progress, but I am glad to hear that you recognise that economic regeneration must largely come from within and that Government can do little to help those who are not ready to help themselves.

I gather from another Address which I have received to-day that Government have recently announced a more liberal policy for the extension of feeder railway lines by private enterprise, and I trust that the creation of a new portfolio for Education may, among other advantages, lead to progress in technical education of all kinds. I do not feel competent to express opinions upon the various items of the extensive programme you have laid before me until I have had time to learn something of India, and to consult my colleagues, but I feel confident that I should have their hearty concurrence and support in saying that the Government of India have done and will do all that in them lies to secure an alleviation of disabilities under which your fellow-countrymen and our fellow-subjects labour in some Colonies. I feel that I have been fortunate in the moment of my arrival upon your shores. The

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season is prosperous, political asperities are somewhat abated, and all sane men are united in deploring revolutionary crime. No man can foretell the future, but the auguries are propitious. If India will extend to me the same kindly feelings which I have for her, I shall go forward on my way in hope and confidence.

Let me, in conclusion, thank you, heartily, Mr. President and gentlemen, for the cordial welcome which you have extended to me and for your good wishes to Lady Hardinge and myself.

THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[Lord Hardinge received a deputation of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in Government House, when an Address was presented to him.

Lord Hardinge, in reply, said] :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce:—It is a great pleasure to me to receive you here this morning and the Address that you have presented to me while still under the vivid impression created on arriving for the first time in the port of Bombay, the great gate of entry into India, with all its natural beauties and its docks and quays teeming with shipping and active commercial life and enterprise. The impression is one that I shall not easily forget. The complexity of Indian administration is well illustrated by the Address to which I have just listened, and in the few remarks that I shall make it would be presumptuous for me at so early a stage to pretend to any special knowledge or authority. To take at random one of the subjects to which you refer, scarcity of unskilled labour and its dearness, I can fully understand

what serious effect this must have upon the margin of profit of any business enterprise, but if you look at the other side of the shield and consider the steady increase of the cost of living, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that unless there had been some corresponding increase in their wages, the condition of the labouring population must necessarily become pitiable. Your testimony to the general prosperity not only of this city but of India as a whole is, I need hardly say, most welcome to me, and your reference to the ravages of plague gives me the opportunity of congratulating you upon the present diminution of that terrible scourge. May it please God to continue this mercy to your city and to deliver India from so great a tribulation !

I have already said elsewhere that I intend to maintain the policy of Lord Minto's Government, and I anticipate with confidence that the enlargement of the Councils and the increase of their powers will give a clearer voice and greater weight to the views of the various communities of this great country than is furnished by the occasional presentation of a formal Address. In your observations upon the Gold Standard Reserve and railway development

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you touched upon difficult questions which have formed the subject of much discussion in the past and are likely to engage the anxious consideration of the Government in future. I can assure you that any opinions which the commercial community may feel called upon to express in furtherance of their solution, whether by the voice of their representatives in Council or otherwise, shall receive sympathetic attention. I note your appreciation of the increasing tendency of Government to take you into their confidence in matters affecting your welfare. My own experience in foreign countries has brought me to realise the importance of commerce as affecting political questions. Its problems occupied my attention not only abroad but throughout the period of my service in the Foreign Office, and I always attached to them special importance. You may rest assured of my sympathetic and active support in your commercial and industrial life, and I shall rely at the same time upon your helpful co-operation in all matters affecting the development of trade and the resources of this great Empire.

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ment you have paid me. I appreciate the trouble that you, busy men as you are, have taken in coming here to present to me this Address, and I thank you warmly for the cordiality of your welcome.

THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

[The Chairman and Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation waited upon the Viceroy on the 26th November, 1910, and presented an Address of Welcome. After offering a most loyal and heartfelt welcome, the Address dwelt on Municipal activity and the development of the City of Calcutta to the foremost rank among the capital cities of the world. The Commissioners were confident that the Reform scheme initiated by Lord Minto would, with His Excellency's fostering care, in time become an indissoluble bond of mutual trust and equality between the rulers and the ruled.]

H. E. the Viceroy, in reply, said:—

I thank you very sincerely for the cordial welcome that you have so kindly extended to Lady Hardinge and myself on behalf of the citizens of this Capital, amongst whom we look forward with pleasure to the prospects of residing. I feel confident that Lady Hardinge will win her own way to the hearts of your wives and daughters, and it is my hope that, in doing my duty according to my lights in the responsible office to which I have been called,

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I may be able to retain those friendly feelings towards me with which your Address is inspired. I have always taken pride in my hereditary connection with India, but I should have been less than human had I not been deeply stirred by the kindly reference to my grandfather's services which had so constantly been made since I landed on your shores, and I pray that I may be given strength, courage and wisdom to hand on untarnished the name he left behind.

I have seen something of your busy streets; I have heard of your great industries and teeming population, and I can conceive no more searching test of the efficiency of local self-government than the administration of this vast and ever-increasing city.. You would not thank me for flattering words spoken without knowledge, but it is no small task that you have in hand, and if you are able to bring to it a high ideal and single-minded devotion to the welfare of the community you represent, allowing no selfish motive ever to influence your actions, then, indeed, you are fulfilling a high standard of citizenship. I am glad to hear of the proposed formation of an Improvement Trust for the development of the city, but

some years must necessarily elapse before its operation can show any tangible results. Let us hope that they may eventually lead to the planning and reconstruction of a town with noble thoroughfares and breathing spaces, where even the poorest shall be housed in decent and sanitary conditions.

I ardently share your desire for a period of greater security and tranquillity and have the utmost confidence in the happy results to be derived from the scheme of Reforms recently initiated by my predecessor. That there should be no disagreement in our Councils is not to be expected, and hardly to be desired. But the more ample powers with which the recent Reforms have endowed them should tend to increase their sense of responsibility, and I believe that with full and free discussion, and with the display of a reasonable and conciliatory spirit, we shall be enabled to happily co-operate for India's good. I hope that when His Majesty comes to India, a year hence, he will be able to spare time to visit this Capital, and that we may be able to show to our Emperor a peaceful, prosperous and united India, while I know that India will be stirred to the depths of her heart, and nowhere more than in

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Calcutta, with a sense of intense and loyal devotion to his Throne and person.

I am very glad, gentlemen, to have had this opportunity of meeting you and of making your acquaintance, and I thank you very heartily for the kindness of your words of welcome to Lady Hardinge and myself. I thank you most warmly for the beautiful casket in which the Address has been enclosed.

THE TALUQDARS OF OUDH.

[*The following is the Viceroy's reply to the Address from the Taluqdars of Oudh*] :—

I do not propose today to do more than thank you very heartily for Lady Hardinge as well as myself for the very kind terms which you have expressed in your welcome to us. It is your practice thus to come forward as each succeeding Viceroy takes up his honourable task, and your custom is a pleasant and friendly one, for you represent the great landholders and the most influential class in a very important part of India. It rejoices me, therefore, to receive your assurance of support and co-operation, and you may rest in confidence that your rights and privileges will always be regarded by me with the respect to which they are entitled.

You, as great landholders, have cares and responsibilities of your own, and I feel sure that as you recognise the blessings you enjoy and the recognition which Government have always accorded to your position in the past, so you will extend to your subordinate proprietors and

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occupants a similar measure of sympathetic consideration.

I am glad, gentlemen, to have had this opportunity of making your acquaintance. I hope that it may become closer and ripen into friendship, and that I may have opportunities in the future of seeing you in your own country and on your own estates. In expressing my warm appreciation of your kindly reference to my grandfather, I desire to thank you, gentlemen once more for your hearty welcome.

THE IMPERIAL LEAGUE.

[H. E. the Viceroy received a deputation on behalf of the Imperial League on 2nd December, 1910. H. H. the Maharajah of Burdwan read the Address of Welcome..

His Excellency, in reply, said] :—

MAHARAJAH AND GENTLEMEN OF THE IMPERIAL LEAGUE :—Yours is an Association that has only recently come into existence, and the occasion of your birth was to be found at a moment of dangerous unrest. You are young as a Society, but I am very glad to have this opportunity of meeting you and of telling you how much importance attaches, in my opinion, to that spirit which has inspired so large a number of gentlemen of influence and position to band themselves together in times of trouble and declare themselves openly on the side of Government. I do not know how far you have been able to accomplish anything in the short time—less than year, I believe—since you were organised, but I feel confident that you will not confine your efforts to presenting Addresses to arriving and departing Viceroys, and I recognise that much of your power for good must lie in

the influence you are able to bring to bear, each in your own circle. The influence so exercised has a value which it is difficult to appraise too highly. Thanks to the sagacity and firmness of my predecessor, the outlook is much happier now than in the troubled times which brought your League into existence, and there is every reason to expect that it will continue to improve, and while Government must steadily and firmly take the necessary measures for the maintenance of peace and internal order and for the protection of the great loyal majority, they will count upon the members of your Society, and upon all those who entertain similar loyal sentiments, to let the world know that they take their stand on the side of law and order and thus strengthen the hands of those in authority.

I thank you warmly, gentlemen, for your kindly reference to my grandfather. I appreciate highly the sentiments of loyalty to which you have given expression, and I am grateful to you for the trouble you have taken in coming here to-day and the kindness of the welcome you have extended to me. At the same time, I wish to thank you very warmly for the beautiful casket in which you have enclosed the address which you have presented to me.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

[His Excellency received the same day an Address from the British Indian Association, to which he made the following reply]:—

MAHARAJAH AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION:—Your kindly remarks upon my past career are couched in somewhat flattering terms, but it is true enough that in its course I have become acquainted with many countries and different nationalities, and though my home is in the West, I am not altogether a stranger to the East. India is not among the countries I have visited in the past, but you are by no means the first who have reminded me of my old family connection with her, and you will hardly be surprised when I tell you that the tradition handed down from father to son has secured a warm corner in my heart for your country. Almost as far back as I can remember, my grandfather had something to do with the sowing of those first seeds of education which, as days go on, yield an ever-increasing harvest and have been so potent a

factor in the development of modern India, and I value highly your appreciative reference to his services, but neither he nor any of his successors could have secured real and permanent progress for India without the hearty co-operation of a loyal body of Government servants in this country, and it has given me a special pleasure to notice that you do not overlook the labours of those who have borne the burden and heat of the day through so many generations. You may rest assured that so long as I have the honour to hold my present high office it will be my constant endeavour to maintain and perpetuate the highest traditions of British Rule in India.

You have quoted a speech I made in England, and I do not propose to repeat it to-day, but I will tell you that I shall always be ready to listen to representations that you, or any other responsible body, may desire to make to Government, and to give your suggestions my very attentive consideration. The occasions on which I was called up to be in attendance upon His late Majesty placed me in a position to know the keen and affectionate interest he always took in all that concerned the welfare of India and her people, and you may rest

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assured that our present Emperor has inherited the same feelings. It has been my privilege to learn from His Majesty's own lips how near India is to his heart, and he has given incontrovertible testimony of his sentiments towards her by his announced determination to come and see you in person at no distant date.

Gentlemen, I gratefully accept your assurances of loyalty to his person and throne, and of your support to myself and my colleagues, and I thank you for the welcome you have given me to your city. At the same time, I wish to thank you for the very beautiful casket in which your Address is enclosed.

THE BENGAL LANDHOLDERS.

[On the 16th December, 1910, H. E. the Viceroy received in Calcutta a deputation from the Bengal Landholders' Association.]

In reply His Excellency said]:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE BENGAL LANDHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION,—It is only a few days ago that I replied to an Address from the British Indian Association, and I am not perfectly clear how you are differentiated from that Society, unless it be that you number within your ranks a larger proportion of Zemindars from Eastern Bengal. In any case it is a pleasure to me to receive you here-to-day, and I thank you warmly for your Address. I notice with appreciation that in the Address which you have presented you have not attempted to elicit my opinion upon any contentious questions. Your friendly reference to the work that my grandfather did in India calls attention to the increasing rapidity with which this country is moving forward to take her place alongside other great progressive countries of the world. But when you contemplate its enormous area, its vast population and its divergent conditions, when

you remember the contrasts between helpless ignorance and extreme intellectual activity, when you take into consideration the strong, and, I fear, sometimes antagonistic religious feelings to be found within your borders, you will readily admit that the problem of Indian administration is one of no ordinary complexity. I am, however, surrounded by wise counsellors, both European and Indian, and I can count upon the co-operation of able administrators and loyal services, and I can promise that no effort will be spared on my own part to fulfil the great trust that has been laid upon me. And I feel confident that with your help, gentlemen, and that of others of your class all over India, and with the greater wisdom we may obtain from our larger Councils, we may look forward to an era of progress and prosperity, and it is my most earnest hope that it may also be a period of peace and happiness.

I thank you heartily for the welcome you have given me, and for the kind thought that inspired you to associate with mine the name of Lady Hardinge. At the same time I wish to thank you all for the beautiful casket in which your Address is enclosed.

THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION DEPUTATION.

[A deputation of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Corporation waited on Lord Hardinge, to whom His Excellency made the following reply] :—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—It is only a few days ago that I had the pleasure of receiving an Address of Welcome from the Corporation of Calcutta, and I did not then anticipate that I should so soon receive a deputation from the same body of a more business-like character. When I noticed in the papers the other day that a discussion had been raised in the Corporation in regard to the place where His Majesty should hold his Durbar when he comes to India in 1912, I could not help feeling some regret. If I had been aware beforehand that such a discussion was likely to arise, I would have endeavoured to make known to those interested what I am now about to say. The question is clearly one for His Majesty's own decision, and the communications which I have received show that he has already decided in favour of Delhi. I do not think that any advantage will accrue from discussing with you

the various considerations which you have urged in favour of the selection of Calcutta. It is only natural that His Majesty's loyal subjects in this city should desire that the Durbar should take place here, and I feel confident that almost every other great city in India would have the same loyal desire, and if they thought they could produce equally good arguments in their favour, they would be anxious that they should be known in the proper quarter. But when His Majesty has made public his wishes in the matter, I do not think it would be fitting on my part to advise him to re-consider his determination, and I feel confident that you would not wish to press me to do so. All this I should like to have said to you before the matter was discussed in the Corporation, but as such an important body as you represent has passed a unanimous resolution that this deputation should be instructed to represent the matter to me, I decided, after some consideration, that it would be more courteous on my part to receive it than to write and say, as I was tempted to do, that such a representation would serve no useful purpose.

I hope, gentlemen, that you will understand and accept the position which I have now

explained to you, and while I cannot hold out to you any hope that I will advise His Majesty to reconsider the position, I feel confident that he will be pleased to hear of your loyal and hearty wishes in the matter, and I trust that you will in some degree be reconciled to this unfavourable reply by the possibility of Their Majesties spending some days in Calcutta after the Durbar and before their return to England, which, although I am not authorized to say so at present, I have every reason to believe to be Their Majesties' intention. It appears to me hardly necessary to point out that spontaneous action on their part in visiting Calcutta will be a far greater compliment to this great city on the part of Their Majesties than an official visit required merely for the holding of a Coronation Durbar.

I thank you for the courteous tone of your representations and for the loyal spirit with which they are inspired.

predecessor are in a sense a continuation of my grandfather's policy, and while I pretend to no greater wisdom than them or than the many Viceroys who have taken their part in preparing the way for the great forward step which has recently been taken in the history of British India, I assure you that I realise very fully that that step is, and should be, a real one, and I have very great confidence that our enlarged and more responsible Councils will, by the wisdom and dignity of their proceedings, show that it has been a right one.

I can speak more frankly to you, gentlemen, because I feel that you represent some of the most substantial interest of the community and the most sober sense of this ancient Presidency. I say this in no spirit of idle flattery, and I think that my words are justified by a reference to your Chairman's speech of two years ago, when same opinions were not so frequently to be met with, at any rate in public, as they are. I am thankful to believe, at the present moment. You are constantly consulted by Government on questions affecting not only the commercial community, but also the general welfare of the people. You have given useful and valuable advice; you have shown

a spirit of loyalty, and your influence has always been on the side of Law and order. I believe that you maintain cordial relations with your friends of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and I am told that you strive to maintain a high standard of business integrity. So I repeat with all sincerity that I am glad to have had this opportunity of meeting you, and I thank you very warmly for the friendly terms of your Address, for the heartiness of your welcome, and for the good wishes which you have expressed as well for me as for Lady Hardinge and my family. I thank you at the same time for the beautiful casket in which your Address is enclosed.

THE IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

[The Viceregal Legislative Council met in Calcutta at 11 a.m. on Tuesday the 3rd January, 1911, sixty-one Members being present including His Honour The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

H. E. the Viceroy rose and said]:—

Your Honour and Gentlemen,—As this is the first time that I am called upon to preside over this Council, I should like to say how much I appreciate the honour, and how deeply I feel the heavy responsibility that it entails. It is to me a source of sincere satisfaction that I have been called upon to preside over a reformed Legislative Council, of which the merit is, I believe, largely due to the wisdom of my predecessor, Lord Minto. The extension of the elective system, the increase of the number of our Members and the enlargement of our powers lend weight and interest to our deliberations, upon the results of which depend the welfare and happiness of so many millions of our fellow-subjects. It is the duty of this Council to discuss subjects that are generally complex and sometimes even contentious. It

would be neither natural nor desirable that such discussions should provoke no disagreement among us. But I hope and believe that that frank expression of opinion will assist us to understand each other and to appreciate one another's point of view. At the same time, I trust that our deliberations may be animated by a spirit of mutual concession, and I rely upon you, gentlemen, with confidence, to assist me in maintaining that high standard of dignity and courtesy that has hitherto characterised the proceedings of this Council, and that are worthy of the highest traditions of this assembly.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS DEPUTATION.

[H. E. Lord Hardinge received in Calcutta a deputation from the Indian National Congress on the 3rd January 1911 and made the following reply] :—

I have received with satisfaction the expression of deep and heartfelt loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor on the part of your deputation from the Indian National Congress, and the assurance of your earnest desire to co-operate with the Government in promoting the welfare of the country. To any student of the history of this country during the past 100 years it must be clearly evident that it has been the aim of England to promote the material welfare and happiness of the Indian people; and the prosperity and progress that are visible on all sides are indisputable proofs that that policy has been attended by a considerable measure of success. To the material advancement of the Indian people has now been added a large measure of political concession in the expansion of the Legislative Councils, on a wider representative

basis, and in the appointment of Indians to the Executive Councils of the Viceroy and of Local Governments as also of the Council of the Secretary of State, thus giving them a larger share in the management of public affairs. These reforms are still in their infancy and require careful consolidation. It will be my constant endeavour to maintain a jealous watch over them and to see that the object for which they were instituted is attained.

In the body of your Address you refer to various broad questions affecting the welfare of the masses, which I can assure you the Government of India have entirely at heart. The realisation of some of these proposals would entail a very considerable increase to the normal expenditure of the Government and would in all probability require new sources of revenue to meet it. The educational problem is one, however, that the Government of India have taken in hand. The creation of a separate Department to deal with education may be regarded as an earnest of the fulfilment of their intentions.

I notice that a large number of those present here to-day are Members of my Legislative

Council, through whose intermediary these and other questions, such as those enumerated by the Congress, can be brought in due course before the Provincial and Imperial Legislative Councils, and I am confident that in each case they will receive the most careful consideration, the aim of the Government of India being to promote the material welfare and moral development of the Indian people and to mete out even-handed justice to all races, classes and creeds.

I am pleased to see your President, Sir William Wedderburn, whose efforts to conciliate the existing differences between Hindus and Mussalmans have my entire sympathy and my best wishes for their complete success.

I thank you for the cordial welcome that you have extended to me on assuming the high office that has been confided to me by our King-Emperor, and I warmly reciprocate your desire that my term of office may be marked as a period of peace, progress and prosperity for India. At the same time I wish to thank you for the lovely casket in which your Address is enclosed.

THE SEDITIOUS MEETINGS BILL.

[In winding up the debate on the Seditious Meetings Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 26th March 1911, H. E. Lord Hardinge spoke as follows]:—

It will probably be within the memory of the Hon'ble Members that my predecessor, Lord Minto, in his speech made in Council at Simla in August last, gave as a reason for the temporary re-enactment of the Seditious Meetings Act, for a period of six months only, that he did not wish to commit his successor to a policy of which he had not had sufficient opportunity of judging, and which he might possibly not approve. I feel, therefore, that in view of the fact that I have been brought personally into the discussion of this very important question, that it is incumbent on me on this occasion to say a few words on this subject.

In the first place, let me say that I am grateful to Lord Minto for his consideration in having given me an opportunity to take stock of the whole state of affairs, and to submit

to your consideration a new Act more in accordance with the actual situation, and without some of the more stringent provisions of the previous Act. I do not want to discuss the origin of the Act of 1907, except to express my absolute conviction that the Government of India would not have passed a measure of that kind without having duly weighed the heavy responsibility that they incurred, and without the knowledge that the provisions of the ordinary Law were inadequate to meet the very grave and serious situation that had developed in certain Provinces at that time.

That the Act has had a beneficent and a restraining influence is a fact which no amount of argument can disprove, and the material improvement that has taken place in the general internal situation is undoubtedly largely due to the restraining influence of the measure. I am far from ignoring the views and the opinions of the Hon'ble Members who have spoken against the Bill with great moderation and with the dignity that is customary to them. I am confident that their scruples are absolutely conscientious, and that they are just as keen and anxious as the Government of India for the maintenance of order and tranquillity —(applause)—and for the

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dissemination of sentiments of loyalty throughout this great Empire. We differ only as to the best methods of arriving at that result. It is, however, a source of intense satisfaction to me to be able to associate myself with the views of Hon'ble Members as to the improved situation and political temper of which I maintain there can be no doubt whatever. In spite of the recent instances of crime in Calcutta, which all sane men must regard with absolute abhorrence, there has, I am glad to say, been a revulsion of feeling against political violence and crime to which it is so often related. Thoughtful people have realised that with the advent of the Reformed Councils opportunities are presented for the redress of grievances, and for the prosecution of demands by constitutional methods, and that intemperate speeches and writings are not likely to further, but rather to retard, the progress that we all desire. But to accept as a conclusion from this that sedition and political crimes have entirely disappeared would be to live in a fool's paradise and to close one's eyes to the actual facts of the situation. Were the vigilance of Government to be relaxed for one single instant, there is very little doubt that sedition and political c

would once more spring into life, and certainly, at least for a time, retard that healthy evolution of political and material progress that it is the duty and desire of Government to promote.

The Seditious Meetings Act of 1907, whatever its scope might be, had no terror for the law-abiding citizen. It is an Act which is limited in its operation. It is a purely preventive measure designed to restrict inflammatory oratory on the part of the irresponsible members of the community. It would, I should have thought, have met with the warm approval of all those who wish to see the educated youth of India grow up into useful and law-abiding members of the community, instead of being incited to become professional agitators and possibly political criminals. We have unfortunately in Eastern Bengal a striking example of the development into ordinary criminals of young men of the middle class, who, during the last three or four years, have been engaged in what have been euphemistically called "political dacoities," thus showing the normal deterioration and degradation that has taken place owing to the spread of sedition in illegitimate political agitation. In any case,

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whatever the objections of some Hon'ble Members may be to the Act in question, they should remember that through its agency the youth of India during the last three and a half years have been protected from the evil effects of sedition preached from the platform.

It was with the greatest satisfaction that I learned that, amongst others, the student class of Calcutta, an intensely human and sympathetic body, since restrictions were placed on seditious writings and speeches, have shaken off their predilections for teachings of that kind, and have diverted their attention to the more wholesome and normal interest of manly games and exercises. This is only one instance out of many, but I would remind Hon'ble Members that it is the primary duty of the Government to extend the best protection to all members of the community, and especially to the rising generation, and I may add that no efforts will be spared by Government in so doing.

One of my first acts on assuming the reins of office in this country was to consider very carefully this, upon which I have an absolutely open mind, and to invite the opinions of the Local Governments as to whether in their view the Act should be re-enacted, or whether it should

be allowed to elapse. The complete unanimity of replies received from Local Governments, and the views of several Indians of marked ability and knowledge, impressed upon me the danger to public tranquillity were the Act allowed to lapse, and no other Law to take its place, and the views which I have formed during the few months I have been in this country have convinced me of the absolute necessity of a weapon being in existence to meet special situations, although it need not necessarily be in evidence. With this view my Government entirely concurred. No self-respecting Government, with a knowledge of the situation which occurred in 1907, would expose itself to the risk of allowing a similar situation to occur without having the means at hand to meet it, nor would it willingly surrender a weapon which has already proved its usefulness as a preventive and a restraining force.

It is not to anybody's interest, except, perhaps, that of the criminal class, that the Law should be weighed in the balance and found wanting. The new Act that is before you, as you are aware, is intended to be of a permanent character, and with that object in view the clauses to which special objections have been taken in the past

have either been modified or expunged. It is with regret that I have not been able to accept the suggestion of a timely Act, but I cannot help feeling that the renewal of the agitation on this subject is very detrimental to the best interests of the State. The new Act, as it stands, is the very minimum required to make it effective, but should it be found in practice that it is wanting in the required form, then a Regulation will become necessary to give it that form. It is, however, my earnest hope and desire that the new Act may never be put to the test, and that before very long it may come to be regarded as an obsolete measure on the Statute Book.

The present Act was, as Hon'ble Members are well aware, extended by my predecessor's Government to the whole of India. Now in order to show my trust and confidence in the people of India, I do not intend that the new Act, when passed, shall be extended to any part of India—(applause)—unless the necessity arises—a contingency which I trust may never occur. It depends, therefore, on the people of India as to whether the new Act is to be and remain a dead letter or not. In the meantime, I abjure Hon'ble Members of my Legislative Council to rally to the side of Government in

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passing an Act which will not only resist sedition and crime, but which will, at the same time, protect your sons and the sons of your friends and relations from pernicious and disloyal teachings that can only end in sadness and disaster (Applause).

THE BUDGET DEBATE OF 1911.

[*The following is H. E. the Viceroy's closing speech on the Budget Debate in the Imperial Legislative Council held in Calcutta on the 27th March 1911*].—

With the close of this discussion we come to a fitting termination of what has been a busy and a useful session. The debate on the Budget, both at this stage and when the figures were under detailed scrutiny three weeks ago, have been practical and suggestive, and my Government are indebted to a number of Hon'ble Members for advice and criticism of much value, which, even where we cannot act upon them at the moment, will receive our careful consideration. Into the details of the financial arrangements, embodied in the Budget, it would be superfluous for me to enter. I gather that they meet with the general approval of the Council, and I can only add the hope that the beginning year will fulfil our expectations ; that prosperity will grow ; that there will be a good monsoon and that India will be spared the too oft recurring sadness of pestilence and famine.

In their broad features our finances seem to me to reflect with much fidelity the general condition of the country. The financial position of the country, like our political condition, has greatly improved since the gloomy days of 1908. We have obtained a breathing space which should enable us to look into the future and prepare ourselves for what it may bring. That it will bring problems of much complexity no one of us can doubt, and the sacrifices, for example, which we were making for the reformation of China will impose a heavy burden on the Indian exchequer, and no small hardship upon many of our own people and several of the Feudatory States. But there are other difficulties ahead of us, the effect of which it is less easy to gauge. There are the very pressing claims of education, of public health, of medical relief, of industrial development and of many other special needs which must necessarily increase with the growing political sense of India. All these will cast liabilities on the public purse, impossible to estimate in advance, but certainly heavy and increasing.

As in the realm of politics, so also in our finances, I have every confidence that we shall solve the problem and surmount the

difficulties that the future has in store for us. But they warn us of the need for caution in our financial methods, and sobriety in our public expenditure. In most of the recent criticism on our financial position, I have been struck by a certain note of importance. In the business world our trade is described as moving more slowly than it should, our industries are not expanding rapidly enough, and our organisation of capital in India is needlessly backward. In this Council the same note has been sounded. There seemed to be a feeling that we are old-fashioned in our ideas about debt, that we make too much, perhaps, of our opium losses, and we are urged to spend more rapidly on education, to give more abundantly to the Provinces, and so forth. In all this there is much with which I can sympathise. The progress of a country must rest on a solid basis of national credit, and we could not do a greater disservice to the advance of India in education or industry, or social well-being, than by doing anything which would weaken our credit or shake public confidence in our financial methods or embarrass our solvency in the future. From this point of view I think that our conservatism is fully justified. I do not think it is overdone. Our normal

revenues are steadily growing, our exchange is stable, our operations on the money market have been successful, and we have given in all grants of nearly one million sterling for education and sanitation—a more imposing contribution to those services than in any previous year of our history. Turn to our commerce and it tells the same tale, for the value of our external trade in the current year is now approaching £ 375 millions, by far the highest figure on record.

Our position on all sides is thus one of much strength. It is not time, however, for indiscriminate optimism. Apart from the special financial problems to which I have referred, and apart also from the varying fortunes of the seasons on which our prosperity so largely depends, we see all around us unmistakable signs of the economic changes which now have India in their grip. To some of these signs the Hon'ble the Finance Member has alluded—the growing employment of gold, the release of hoarded rupees, the enlarged use of our paper currency ; and others are visible in the growth and spread of Co-operative Credit Societies. We have entered upon a period of economic unrest and transition, and if our Indian finance is to come

through in safety, our watchwords must be caution and economy. Caution we have shown, and I trust we shall continue to show it. Economy is ever present to my mind, and I cordially endorse the undertaking that has been given by my Government to examine the whole question of our departmental expenditure, both civil and military, with a view to restricting its growth as well as to actual reductions wherever practicable. Retrenchment is not always an agreeable task, and it is difficult to reconcile with some of our ideals of administration. But in the present circumstances of India, public economy is the clearest of necessities, and I am confident that its fruits will justify the sacrifices that it may entail on this subject.

I have only a few more words to say. They relate to the permanent financial settlements which, with the approval of His Majesty's Government, we have now concluded with the Provinces. The measure has attracted a certain amount of natural and very temperate criticism, although I gather that most of the Provinces recognise the substantial liberality which animated it. I wish, however, to put the matter to the Council in the light of what I have just been saying. Caution and economy

are necessary in Imperial finance. They are equally imperative in the management of that portion of the public funds which is under provincial control, but how the Provinces are to help us effectively in the careful administration of our finances I cannot see, unless their share of responsibility is definitely and permanently fixed. I regret that some of the Provinces should find the arrangement less favourable to them than they had hoped. I doubt if complete equality of treatment would ever be attainable, and I can only give the assurance that my Government have done their best to remove all substantial grievances. Besides being an essential step towards the greater stability of Indian finance, the Permanent Settlements confer a large measure of true decentralisation, and I feel sure that I may now call on the Provinces as our partners in the work of good government to co-operate with us in that economy, without which true efficiency is impossible.

Although it cannot be said that the matter to which I now wish to refer is dependent on the Budget at present under discussion, I would like to touch on the subject of the accommodation provided for the Supreme Legislative

Council, upon which a question was put some time ago by an Hon'ble Member. It has always appeared to me that the accommodation provided for this Council is entirely inadequate, and that it should be on a much more important and dignified scale. I sympathise entirely with the desire of the Hon'ble Mr. Sinha that a properly equipped Library attached to the Council Chamber should be furnished to Hon'ble Members, where they could have access to books of utility in debate, and that there should also be Committee-rooms, where groups could meet and confer with each other, which would be very difficult to do here. Further, it seems to me utterly impracticable and absurd that during the session of the Council the work of the Government of India should be practically at a standstill, and paralysed by the fact that the Secretaries of the Government have to be present in Council, even when the affairs of their own Department are not under discussion. This defect could easily be remedied, if in another Council building each Secretary were provided with a small room where he could, when not required in the Council Chamber, continue to transact the business of his Department, and yet be available at a moment's

notice for his duty as a Member of the Legislative Council. I do not dilate upon the discomfort of this Council Chamber, especially during some days of this month when the temperature was exceptionally high. I think we have all borne our burden and the heat of the day with fortitude and resignation. But I do not know whether these will be constant qualities in the future. I greatly regret that the limitations of Government House prevent me from offering better accommodation to the Council. But although Government House is a very fine and stately building, I had, during the visit of the German Crown Prince, to lodge many of his suite in tents, and when Their Majesties do me the honour of coming to Government House next winter, I shall have to put the overflow under canvas in the garden and possibly on the maidan. I think, therefore, that Members of Council should consider whether the time has not arrived to discuss the question of finding a suitable site and of building a new Council Hall more in accordance with the needs and dignity of the Supreme Legislative Council. To do so will, of course, cost money, and it is with some hesitation that I make this suggestion with the watchful eye

of the Cerberus of the Finance Department upon me, and with the prediction ringing in my ears of a shrinking revenue in the future. I feel, however, that it is not merely a question of comfort but of efficiency that is at stake, and if such views as I have just outlined meet with the approval of Hon'ble Members, I hope that at the next meeting of the Council they will favour the Government and Council with an expression of their opinions. In the meantime I hope that it is not necessary for me to say that, so long as I live in Government House, I shall always esteem it a great honour for my Legislative Council to meet under my roof.

There is one other subject upon which I should like to say a few words before Hon'ble Members leave Calcutta. The King-Emperor proposes, as you are all aware, to hold a great Durbar at Delhi in December next, and it has been a great pleasure to listen to the words said here by Hon'ble Members to-day. A wave, I might say, a tidal wave of enthusiasm has swept the country from end to end on the receipt of the news in India, and I can picture to myself the striking warmth and cordiality of the reception that the King-Emperor and:

the Queen will receive from all classes on their arrival in this country, and I may add that it is the desire of our King-Emperor to see as many as possible of His Majesty's Indian subjects. With this object in view, arrangements are being made at Delhi, so that opportunities may be given to all to see Their Majesties. It will, I think, be no information on my part to state that, according to present arrangements, Their Majesties hope to arrive at Bombay on the 2nd December, and in Delhi on the 7th December, when the State Entry will be made. Owing to the lack of space at the Railway Station, those taking part in the reception there will necessarily be few in number, but it is proposed that Their Majesties shall be received by the representatives of British India at a position to be selected on the ridge of Delhi, where ample space will be secured. I am leaving to-morrow for Delhi on purpose to supervise these arrangements and to select a suitable spot. The date of the actual Durbar has been fixed for the 12th December, and every preparation is being made for a Coronation ceremony worthy of our King-Emperor, and in accordance with the dignity of the Sovereign of this great Empire. I may

mention that I am endeavouring to arrange that the actual crowning ceremony may be witnessed by about 100,000 of our fellow-subjects, of whom the vast majority will be Indians. Amongst other incidents of interest that will take place will be a Review of Troops, a Reception by His Majesty of Indian Officers, of British and Indian Regiments and a Fete for the people, who will also be given an opportunity of seeing their Emperor and King. I am in hope that Their Majesties will arrive in Calcutta before the New Year—on the 30th December. I have ventured to detain you longer than I intended, as I wished to take the Members of my Council into my confidence, and to give you some idea of the preparations now being made to afford Their Majesties a fitting welcome on the great and auspicious occasion that lies before us.

I should like to add one word of thanks to the Hon'ble Mr. Dadabhoy for his sympathetic reference to the accident and illness of Lord Crewe. From information I have received, his illness was a result of overwork due to the conscientious manner in which he threw himself into the work of the India Office, of which no detail was too trivial to engage his serious

attention. I share the hopes of the Hon'ble Member, and of all here that this distinguished liberal-minded statesman, who is one of my oldest and best friends, may soon be restored to health and to his duties at the India Office.

In conclusion, I thank you all for your valuable co-operation in the Legislative work of this session, and I now declare the Council adjourned *sine die*.

THE LAHORE MUNICIPALITY.

[*H. E. the Viceroy received an address of welcome from the Lahore Municipality and the following is the text of His Excellency's reply*]:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAHORE.—I am to have other opportunities of speaking while I am in your city, but it has given me particular pleasure to receive this Address from you who represent the Capital of the Province, and not any particular section but all classes of the community. The connection of my grandfather with your city, of which he bore the name, gives it a particular interest for me, and it is natural that I should have included it in the first tour I have made since my arrival in India. Since those days you have made, and are making, wonderful progress. Each new step forward in the progress of civilisation opens out new vistas of knowledge, and there is no subject in the world about which opinions differ so completely and ideas undergo such continual change as that of the importance of education. There is no room for any doubt, and my Government will do all they

can to foster its development and ensure growth along healthy lines.

Of the amenities and beauties of your city I have seen something, and I hope to see more. You will not expect me to deal with your problems of drainage and water supply, and your Lieutenant-Governor would not thank me were I to make any promises on behalf of the Punjab Government, but I feel confident that any proposal you may submit to him will receive his close and sympathetic attention.

I must congratulate the Punjab upon the hearty response it has made to the appeal for funds fitly to commemorate our late King-Emperor. It was my happy lot to be from time to time close to His Majesty's person and to learn something of that kindness of heart which turned his thoughts so constantly towards the alleviation of human suffering. I feel confident that you could have selected no memorial which would have pleased him more, and I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the medical improvements which it will secure for your city.

The day is not far distant when we shall welcome among us his son and successor. His Majesty King George is almost on the thresh-

hold of his reign, and a universal prayer will go up in many tongues that he may live long to rule our destinies in peace and happiness.

I have been deeply touched by the enthusiastic reception that I have met with at the Convocation from the University students of Lahore, which I understand is partly due to the interest that I am taking in the lot of their fellow-students in Calcutta. I never intended that the visit I paid one morning to several students' messes should be known to the public any more than it was known at the time to the students themselves, but I wanted to see with my own eyes and to verify personally what I had heard as to the unsatisfactory conditions under which they live, of which I obtained on that occasion ample ocular proof. I am glad to say that the Government have since been able to allocate Rs. 12 lakhs or Rs. 13 lakhs to providing new hostel accommodation in Calcutta and the mofussil. But much more is still needed to provide an adequate number of hostels for the thousands of students in Calcutta. The past has had its triumphs, the present may have its successes, but it is on the horizon of the future that our watchful eyes should be fixed, and it is for that reason that the

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future needs of the students and youths of this country will always receive from me sympathetic consideration and attention.

Lady Hardinge joins me in thanking you heartily, gentlemen, for your kindly welcome and for your Address, as well as for the beautiful casket in which it is enclosed.

THE PUNJAB MUSLIM LEAGUE.

[*H. E. the Viceroy received an address of Welcome from the Punjab Muslim League, Lahore. and made the following reply*]:—

Gentlemen of the Punjab Muslim League:—
I thank you very heartily for the cordial welcome which you have extended to me on the occasion of this my first visit to Lahore. It is my business to treat the different Provinces of India with the strictest impartiality. But I do not think anyone will blame me if I confess to a special attraction to the Punjab which occupied so much of the energy of my grandfather during his Indian career, and of which the history has been familiar to me since my earliest childhood. Out of those sanguinary struggles into which he was plunged much against his will was born this fair addition to the sisterhood of Indian Provinces, and he would have rejoiced if he could have foreseen how big a future lay before a land so torn at that time by dissension and strife.

I cannot attempt to cover the vast progress in every direction that has taken place since

those days, but I propose to say a few words on the subject of education. When the British administration first began there were Arabic and Sanskrit and Gurmukhi schools of a religious character, but the most genuine educational institutions in the country were the Persian schools where the teachers were almost exclusively Mahomedans, but the pupils included more Hindus than Mahomedans. These schools formed the foundation of the Government vernacular school system. The Department of Public Instruction in the Punjab was organised in 1806, and there were at that time 34 schools maintained from public funds, besides a dozen Mission schools. You have now 4,351 public institutions, including 17 Colleges, besides 2,882 private institutions, and your scholars number nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. This is an advance of which there is no cause to be ashamed, but the goal is still distant when every boy and girl and every young man and maiden shall have an education in what is best calculated to qualify them for their own part in life and for the good of the community as a whole. That is an ideal we must all put before us, but we shall have to struggle amidst disappointments. Meantime Govern-

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ment have shown how much importance they attach to this matter by the creation of a special Department of Education and by the apportionment of a special grant of over Rs. 90 lakhs for educational purposes in the Budget of this year. The Imperial Legislative Council has displayed keen interest in frequent discussions of the subject and you, Muslims of the Punjab, have shown what you think about education by our corporate action in founding your Islamia College and its linked schools, to which I wish all success, and by your spirited response to the appeal for a Muslim University so recently carried through the length and breadth of India under the brilliant leadership of H. H. the Aga Khan.

I have listened with pleasure to your appreciation of the schemes of reform so recently introduced, and note your quickness to appreciate the confirmation by my Government in the Legislative Council of the pledges that have been given to you. You may rest assured that pledges once given by the Government will not be broken. Whether or when you may yourselves come forward to say that you no longer require the privilege of separate representation I cannot say, but if such a day comes, it will

backward in education. You are now making great efforts to make up for lost time, and I am assured by His Honour Sir Louis Dane that when qualified men are available, Government will only be too ready to give them their fair share of appointments. The interest you are taking in female education is a particularly favourable omen of healthy progress. You remark that the chief impetus for the spread of education so far has been Government service, and I fear that there is a good deal of truth in that, but it is not right that it should be so. The object of education should never be limited to so narrow a field. If all the world were Government servants, who would till the fields? And speaking to you who are worthy members of an agricultural community, I would say that the educated agriculturist is probably a better man than the uneducated, and I would draw your attention to the value of an agricultural education and the facilities offered by the great Agricultural College opened less than two years ago at Lyallpur, soon converting arid wastes into a prosperous country site, the opening of Canal Colonies and the liberal policy which Government have pursued in their administration. From this point of view, the Punjab is an

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object-lesson to the whole world of what engineering skill combined with capital can perform, and I am glad to think that such staunch, tried friends as yourselves should have secured so full a share of these benefits.

The happy language in which you refer, gentlemen, to the approaching visit of His Most Gracious Majesty adds one more to the innumerable testimonies I have received of the deep feelings of loyalty and devotion with which his decision to come and hold his own Durbar in India is regarded, and I have no doubt as to the cordial welcome awaiting the King-Emperor and the Queen on their arrival.

Let me thank you, once more, gentlemen of the Sikh community, for the very kind welcome which you have extended to Lady Hardinge and myself. I thank you warmly for your Address, and for the handsome box in which it is enclosed.

THE PUNJAB HINDU SABHA.

[The following is the text of His Excellency's reply to the Punjab Hindu Sabha's address of welcome]:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE PUNJAB HINDU SABHA,
—Please accept my warmest thanks for the cordial welcome which you have extended to Lady Hardinge and myself on behalf of the Hindu inhabitants of the Punjab, on this occasion of our first visit to your Province. I am sorry to think that there are matters about which you as a community feel aggrieved, and no one can blame you if you put forward your views about them at the proper time. I can assure you that Government will lend a sympathetic ear to what you may have to say, and I can only hope that if you do not get all you want, you will at least give Government credit for attempting to reconcile the conflicting interests in a spirit of fairness and impartiality. But I am very grateful to you for not seizing the present opportunity, and I thank you for the courteous and considerate spirit which has taught you to recognise that the time I have been in India has been too short to permit of my fully grasp-

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ing all the bearings of the difficult problems with which the administration of this great country is surrounded. The remark which you have quoted from my speech to the Bombay Muslim League contains an element of truth in relation to politics, which I do not think any one would care to deny, and it is truth which I earnestly hope all will recollect, whether they be Hindu, Mahomedan, Sikh, Parsee, Anglo-Indian, or whatever their race and religion, in the endeavour they should all be making to become better and happier men and better and more useful citizens.

In well-chosen words you have given me another message of loyal devotion and of joyful anticipation to send to the King-Emperor in regard to his approaching visit to your shores, and I well know that India will sink all differences of opinion in uniting to give His Majesty a loyal and hearty welcome.

I thank you again, gentlemen of the Punjab Hindu Sabha, for the kind words with which you have received Lady Hardinge and myself. I thank you again, gentlemen, for your Address and for the handsome casket in which it is enclosed.

RETIRED INDIAN MILITARY VETERANS.

[The gardens at Government House, Lahore, presented an animated and military appearance, when a large number of retired Native Officers assembled for inspection by His Excellency. Almost every regiment recruited in the Punjab must have had its representatives present, and fine representatives they all were, almost every one of them wearing on his breast the Medals of at least one hard-fought campaign, and many of them having four and five Medals each. Quite a number carried the red and white ribboned Medal, which showed them to be Indian Mutiny Veterans. It was a most picturesque sight as the Viceroy passed down the lines of motley grey-bearded men in their different coloured uniforms, touching the handle of the sword of each and saying a few words to a number of them.

Afterwards, the men closed up, and His Excellency made a short speech, which was translated into Hindustani. The following is the text of the speech]:—

INDIAN OFFICERS,—It gives me great pleasure to see you assembled here from all parts of the Punjab. As I told you in the Durbar yesterday, my grandfather was a soldier, and though I myself am a man of peace, I come

from a family of soldiers and sailors, and, therefore, apart from my personal regard for distinguished soldiers, I inherit a love for the Army. I need hardly say that the manner in which all creeds and castes have, when required, vied with each other in laying down their lives, in the service of their Sovereign, is a source of the greatest satisfaction to the King-Emperor. I wish His Majesty could be here to-day to see this fine parade of retired Officers, who show, by the display of the Orders and Medals which they bear, that they have fought gallantly in war and served meritoriously and loyally in peace. I can but hope that your sons and sons' sons will follow in your steps and show that the martial spirit of the Punjab is still alive and at the service of the King-Emperor in peace or war. I thank you all for giving me, a new Viceroy, this opportunity of seeing with my eyes those of whom I have always heard and read so much from my earliest childhood, *viz.*, the Sirdars of the splendid Punjab fighting races.

THE PUNJAB CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION.

[H. E. The Viceroy was entertained at a garden party by the Punjab Chiefs' Association, Lahore. His Excellency made the following acknowledgment] :—

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you very warmly for the Address in which you have just accorded to me so hearty a welcome. You tell me that hereditary associations appeal with special force to Oriental minds but I doubt whether, that is a characteristic peculiar to the East, and speaking for myself I can only say that ever since I first learnt that destiny was to lead my steps to India, I have been looking forward to the time when I should see with my own eyes the scenes among which my grandfather spent some of the most stirring days of his eventful life and make acquaintance with the Province where he exchanged with his brave and gallant foes such hearty buffets and finally made of them such firm friends. England can never forget the help they sent in later days of storm and stress. It is a great pleasure to me to think that amongst you here are descendants of some of the members composing the Lahore

Durbar of the Sikh Government, and that our relations to-day are those of friendship and peace.

I value the kindly words in which you refer to my conduct of affairs during the short time I have been in India, and I sincerely trust that when I come to lay down the burden of this great office they may still stand justified. But, as you have truly observed, public spirit and public opinion are rapidly developing, and interests which till now have had no voice are beginning to make themselves felt, and the business of guiding the ship of State becomes each day more difficult. It is no small consolation to think that I can count for understanding and support upon your Association and upon others of the same character throughout India to co-operate in the furtherance of the policy of Government. But I take it that your first object as members of the aristocracy of the Punjab is to make yourselves more fit to take your proper places in this strenuous world. In that you have my warmest sympathy and I heartily wish your movement success. You will have difficulties to surmount and prejudices to overcome, but now that you have realised that there is no choice but to march forward in

the path of progress, I feel confident that the spirit of your fathers which is in you will help you to overcome all obstacles. I think you have done wisely to form this Association and I congratulate you on the selection of so energetic and capable a Secretary as Sirdar Partap Singh. I was very happy to listen to the words in which you referred to the approaching Coronation Durbar, and I shall not fail to inform His Most Gracious Majesty of the feelings of profound devotion and loyalty which his approaching visit has called into utterance.

In conclusion, gentlemen, let me tell you how much I have enjoyed the opportunity of meeting you in these beautiful gardens, and how greatly I appreciate your kindness in organising this entertainment in my honour. I wish to thank you very warmly for the welcome you have extended to Lady Hardinge and for the beautiful casket in which your Address is enclosed.

THE RAJAHS AND CHIEFS OF THE PUNJAB.

[H. E. The Viceroy received an address of welcome at Lahore from the Rajahs, Chiefs and Sirdars of the Punjab. The following is the full text of the speech he made on the occasion:]—

YOUR HIGHNESSES, CHIEFS, SIRDARS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PUNJAB,—As I look round upon this noble gathering, representative of the aristocracy of so many races, my thoughts are irresistibly turned to the history of your Province, and I find its pages red with the blood of myriads of brave men and golden with the glory of great deeds. Many present here to-day must have heard from the lips of your fathers and grandfathers of that great warrior, King Ranjit Singh, the “Lion of the Punjab,” with whose memory is so closely associated this Shish Mahal, his reception room, within which we are met together. A born soldier, he remained, while life lasted, true and loyal to his English friends and allies, and it may not be beyond the memory of some of you, Chiefs of the Punjab, that it was that very friendship and loyalty to the English which prevented

him from attacking your ancestors when they came under English protection 100 years ago.

If these memories make the hearts of some of you beat faster, you will have some sympathy with me. For, the Punjab has its historical associations, and I, too, have heard from the lips of my father and my uncle of brave deeds and noble deaths. I have just come from visiting those battlefields where such great issues were put to the touch, where my grandfather for the moment merged the Governor-General in the soldier and took his share of danger and hardship on the battlefield with the rest. My grandfather was a soldier by profession, but he came out to India as a man of peace, and I do not believe that any Governor-General, before or since, came out to India with a firmer intention of avoiding war if that could be done with honour. War was thrust upon him whether he liked it or not, and however much he regretted it at the time, I cannot but think his heart would have been glad within him if he could have foreseen that the heat of those conflicts was the furnace in which was welded that strong sentiment of friendship and mutual respect that has ever since been so firm a bond of union between the foes of those days.

On seeing the sites of those historic struggles, drenched with the blood of Sikh and British soldiers, now green and flourishing with growing crops and thriving villages, I have felt that such a bond of union has been forged between Sikh and British that nothing can loosen or destroy, and that here at least the prophecy has been realised of one of the ancient Hebrew prophets who said :—" They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." In later times the Punjab has been a tower of strength to the Empire. Your fighting races have filled the ranks of the Army, and Your Highnesses now maintain forces of Imperial Service who have fought with distinction shoulder to shoulder with His Majesty's forces in not a few tough campaigns. These contributions of Imperial Service Troops and Your Highnesses' well-known loyalty and hatred of sedition are striking evidence of the community and solidarity of your interests with those of the Paramount Power. We live now in times of peace, and it is my earnest hope, and it shall be my strong endeavour, that they may long continue.

It would have rejoiced my grandfather to see this Punjab which he had known in such a welter of bloodshed and disorder become so fair a Province. He would not have disdained the triumphs of peace; indeed he held them at a far higher value than those of war. Education being a matter to which my grandfather paid particular interest during the course of his administration in India, its spread and progress in this Province would have been a joy to him could he have foreseen that Lahore is becoming a vast educational centre with its fine Arts Colleges and its Medical and Veterinary Colleges. It is interesting to note that medical and veterinary education are a specialty in the Punjab, and I hope that the extension of the Medical College and the chief Hospital in Lahore as a memorial to our late and great King Edward will give an additional impetus in this direction.

The commercial and industrial progress of your Province is also truly remarkable. The Punjab has now nearly 300 factories, over 4,000 miles of railway and some 7,000,000 acres of irrigated land, and in the busy brain of your Lieutenant-Governor, I have reason to know that there are schemes for extending still fur-

ther these and other material benefits. But peace and prosperity have their own dangers and their own battlefields. One of them is the ever-persistent fight with disease. Irrigation brings in its train the danger of malaria and the mitigation of this evil and the stay of its ravages constitute a problem of which the Government have yet to find a fully satisfactory solution.

And to you, Chiefs of the Punjab, I would say one word in conclusion. Whatever are the problems and the responsibilities of British India, you have each of you your full share in them. The times have changed and are still changing. We all live under a glare of criticism which was unknown to our fathers. But apart from that the progress of the world demands a higher standard of duty and principle than sufficed for the rough and ready days of old. This is not an age when Principalities can be carved out with the sword, or when glory is to be won by holding out against a hostile invader. But you live among dangers of a more subtle nature. The battle you have to fight is against temptations with all your might. You have in trust the well-being and happiness of thousands of your subjects. Let it be your ideal to

Ware, its first pioneer, was one of the commercial projects that I had most at heart, and the progress that has since been made in the commercial development of that route has been a source of keen satisfaction to me.

I am well aware of the pre-eminent services to this Province and India as a whole of that great but simple man, Sir Robert Sandeman, whose name will be immortalised in the annals of India as a great administrator and a messenger of peace to a troubled and war-worn people. The wonderful progress and material development of Baluchistan with its accompanying civilisation during the period of a little more than thirty years, are monuments to his memory of a far more striking and enduring nature than any that can be built by human hands. To those who believe in a future state, it is a pleasant thought that the knowledge of the progress of the country may be his great reward.

I agree with your statement that although much has been accomplished, there remains yet much to be done. But you may rest assured that during my term of administration in this country I will endeavour to watch over your interests with fostering care, and the fact

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that I hope to have always at my side that very distinguished officer, Colonel Sir Henry MacMahon, who during the period of his office in Quetta has, I believe, won the respect and admiration of all, should be a guarantee that your interests will be neither forgotten nor ignored.

As regards the schemes you mention in your Address you have my heartiest wishes for their complete success. I trust that some of them will be initiated as private enterprises and with private capital, and although it is not possible for me to give pledges as to the future, you may rest assured that any scheme in which the co-operation of the Government is desired or necessary will receive very careful consideration when put before me.

There are two points you mentioned in your Address in connection with the town Police and a Railway extension from Khanai to Hindu Bagh. In reply, I have much pleasure in stating, for your information, that the Government of India have decided to relieve the Municipality of the cost of the Police from the 1st April last, and that the importance of connecting Hindu Bagh with the railway station is thoroughly appreciated; and though it is

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impossible to make any definite pronouncement at present as to when it will be possible to undertake this scheme, there is every reason to hope that it may not be unduly delayed.

I thank you warmly for your expressions of loyalty and devotion to the person of our Emperor, and I will not fail to transmit them of his loyal subjects of Baluchistan. The fact that our Emperor is coming to India on his own initiative to hold his own Durbar is a convincing proof of the remarkable interest that His Majesty takes in his Empire and the subjects of India. I am confident that His Majesty will receive the most respectful and cordial welcome from all.

I share your regrets that I am alone and without the presence of Lady Hardinge, for whom the fatigue of so long a journey is too great after being so short a time in India, but I am grateful to you all for the extreme cordiality of your welcome, and I hope that if time and opportunity permit, she may be able to make good this omission on a future occasion.

THE CHIEFS AND SIRDARS OF BALUCHISTAN.

[Lord Hardinge held a Durbar in Quetta at which His Excellency addressed the Chiefs, Sirdars and Gentlemen assembled as follows]:—

YOUR HIGHNESS SIRDARS AND MALIKS OF BALUCHISTAN.—The history and growth of this Frontier Province of Baluchistan is well known to me. I have studied it with interest, and it is, therefore, a source of pleasure to me to be able, so early in my Viceroyalty, to visit this country and make the personal acquaintance of its chiefs and leading men whom I see assembled before me in this Durbar to-day.

It is now scarcely 35 years ago that these territories now known as Baluchistan came under the control of British Government. Many of you here to-day must remember the days when the country was convulsed with internecine strife, when tribe raided tribe, and fortunate was the man who could reap what he had sown. Unable to live at peace among yourselves, you were unable to live at peace with your neighbours, and it was due to the

trouble you gave to those on your borders that the British Government had to intervene in your country. When I look round at the Quetta of to-day and see the progress which has been made in this Province, when I see peacefully assembled here the men and the sons of the men who so few years ago would have been unable to meet each other except in conflict, I cannot help being impressed with the great changes which have come about in your country, while to me it is a source of deep gratification to think that these beneficent changes are due to the civilising effect of British administration and control. It must be no less a matter of congratulation and thankfulness to yourselves to see the change which has thereby come about in your lives, your security and your prosperity. --

- It is now nearly five years ago that my predecessor, Lord Minto, visited Quetta, and in reviewing the history of Baluchistan during that period I am rejoiced to find that it has been one of steady advancement in civilisation and material progress, that your reputation for loyalty has been fully maintained, and that these past five years have been characterised throughout by conditions of con-

tinuous peace and tranquillity. It is a record of which you, the Chiefs and Headmen of this Province, have just reason to be proud, a record which must be as pleasant for you who have enjoyed the material benefits of it to look back upon as it is pleasant now for me to acknowledge and applaud. When I consider that this is a Frontier Province composed of races and clans of a martial and warlike character whose reputation for peace and good order in the past was far from being of the best, I cannot help thinking that the system of administration inaugurated by your first ruler, Sir Robert Sandeman, and carried on by his distinguished successors, is one which suits the needs and requirements both of Government and the Chiefs and people alike. If I understand this system aright, it is one which, while enabling you to retain that freedom which is the natural heritage of the dwellers of this country of lofty mountains and highland plateau, confers upon you by the wholesome discipline of your own ancient customs and laws enforced under the firm but benevolent control of your British administrators, all the benefits of peace and order and prosperity. Such being the case, I would enjoin you to

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ensure, as far as you yourselves are concerned, that no departures be made from that system, if such can possibly be avoided, except for reasons of the most strong and convincing order.

But, Your Highness, Sirdars and Maliks, I owe it to my position as Viceroy not merely to afford myself the pleasure of giving you that meed of praise which the good State of Baluchistan justifies, but to address to you, the Chiefs and representatives of the various clans and races who occupy this country, a few words of advice and admonition regarding your conduct in the future. In the first place, I am glad to be able to congratulate Your Highness the Khan of Kelat on the continued progress in the administration of your *niabats*, under the able and energetic management of your Political Adviser, Khan Bahadur Kazi Jelaluddin Khan, C. I. E., in whose hands the revenues of these *niabats* have trebled themselves in the last few years. I further congratulate Your Highness on the steady advance in the peace and prosperity of the distant but important district of Mekran, under the management of your Nazim, Nawab Mehrulla. With the increased resources at your disposal, it is my confident hope that

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Your Highness will be enabled to take such steps for the improved welfare of your subjects as may be necessary for the fulfilment of that obligation which rests on all Chiefs secured from internal and external danger by British protection to show liberality and enlightenment of administration. It is an obligation which, I feel sure, Your Highness will loyally carry out.

I am glad to see to-day the Jam of Las Bela present and restored to health. I trust that, on his return to his State, he will continue to show that activity in the administration of his State which characterised his rule before ill-health necessitated his taking a temporary rest.

You, Baluch and Brahui Sirdars of the Baluchistan tribes, who, like your fathers before you, have rendered good and loyal services to Government, and who now enjoy a position of considerable privilege in the matter of self-government and revenue, I urge you to continue to merit these privileges by abstention from dissension among yourselves and by administering your tribes with justice, impartiality and firmness, according to your ancient laws and customs.

You, Sirdars and Maliks of the administered districts, deserve very great praise for your loyal assistance to Government and for the peace and good order you have maintained of recent years. Such crime as has occurred in your territories has, I understand, been largely the work of bad characters or outlaws who have come from across the border. I am glad to say that the arrangements recently made in concert with His Majesty the Amir are likely to diminish such troubles in the future. You yourselves, however, have important duties to perform in order to assist in preventing them altogether. You desire to manage your own internal affairs according to your own tribal custom as administered by your own Jirghas. I am also desirous of continuing that system, but you cannot always continue to enjoy the privileges of the system without fulfilling its obligations. The most important of these obligations is that of tribal responsibility. I refer especially to the responsibility for arresting offenders or tracking them to the limits of another tribe on whom a similar responsibility thus falls. This rule must be enforced if you wish to retain your privileges, whether the offenders come from across the border or not.

With these few admonitions I again express to you all, Chiefs, Sirdars and Maliks of Baluchistan, my high appreciation of your good services, loyalty and good conduct. I take this opportunity of recording also my appreciation of the able services you have so recently rendered my Government in the Census operations. I learn that on this occasion the Census extended for the first time to the whole of Baluchistan, with the exception of the small area of Kharan. The successful carrying out of these operations over this wide country of 132,000 square miles is a matter which reflects very great credit on all concerned.

Before concluding I would like to say a few words on the general prospects of progress in this country. Much has been done in many ways of late years in the direction of improving the material prosperity of the Province. In this extensive Province of yours, which in area is about one-fourteenth of the Indian dominions, the Census has shown that the population is comparatively very small. This would prove that there is a wide scope for further development of the latent resources of the country, both in order to increase the prosperity of its present population, and to enable the

your best interests will always have a warm advocate at my side in the person of Sir Henry MacMahon.

It has given me much pleasure to meet you all here to-day, and the acquaintance now made will, I trust, be further increased and cemented during my term of Viceroyalty. Many of you I hope to meet again shortly at the coming Assembly at Delhi, when, as you know, His Gracious Majesty King George V., Emperor of India, has expressed his intention of holding an Imperial Durbar to make known his Coronation to all his Indian subjects. Baluchistan will, I hope, be adequately represented on that auspicious occasion, and I look forward to the pleasure of seeing you at Delhi.

THE KARACHI MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

[His Excellency received on the 12th April 1911 an address from the Karachi Municipal Council in the Station Hall, to which he made the following reply]:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE KARACHI MUNICIPALITY,—I thank you heartily for the very kind welcome that you have extended to me. It is undoubtedly a fact that your city, though it holds the important position of one of the principal ports of India, is not altogether conveniently suited from the point of view of a Viceregal visit, and it is precisely the fact that it had not been visited by a Viceroy for so long that made me determine that it should be included in this my first tour. I must confess that the way has been rather long and very hot, but the opportunity I am having of making personal acquaintance with your people and your interests far more than compensate for the trivial discomforts of the journey.

The figures which have been put before me show that the responsibilities of your Munici-

pality have grown with the advancing prosperity of your trade and your port. Your income and expenditure, like your population, have greatly increased during the past ten years, and I am much pleased to know that you, gentlemen, have equally risen to your responsibilities. I have nothing but praise to bestow upon the improvements you have made and are making in the more crowded quarters of the town, and I congratulate you very heartily upon the success which has attended your heavy expenditure upon drainage and water-supply. It is easy enough to realise the necessity for a plentiful supply of good water and for proper drainage, but it is not always so easy to devise sound and economical plans to meet these needs, and you have reason to be proud that you have not only devised them but carried them into effect and are able to say without exaggeration that they have been successful. I trust that equally happy results may attend the extensions to the water-supply which you are about to take in hand. I congratulate you, too, upon the improvements you have effected in the lighting of the town and upon your successful co-operation with the Port Trust for the diversion of the main branch of the Lyari River.

I do not remember to have seen any papers about the removal of the military buildings to which you refer, and I am sure you will recognise that military considerations and military finance cannot be lightly set on one side. But I will undertake to look into the matter and see how it stands. It would be premature to say anything about the disposal of the land unless and until the removal of the buildings is, on general grounds, decided to be desirable.

Education occupies a position of such increasing importance at the present time that it is only right that the capital city of Sind should take a prominent place in connection with it. You have numerous institutions, and I am glad to hear that you are increasing your contributions to them. But whether you can establish a claim to greater assistance from Government I must leave to the ripe judgment of your Commissioner and your Governor.

I am much concerned to hear of your sufferings from plague. Money has in the past been spent like water in attempting to battle with it, and men of science are continuously engaged in its study. Though we have learnt a good deal about it, we must sadly confess that we have so far learned a great many things

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that it is no use doing. We have made but few discoveries as to what we ought to do in order to battle successfully with the disease, and inoculation seems to be still the most efficient protection yet devised for each individual.

I am glad that the efficiency of your administration has enabled your Government to trust the people of Karachi with wider elective powers, and I understand that your President, though actually nominated by the Commissioner because no one secured two-thirds of your votes, is the person who would have been chosen under a system of unrestricted selection.

I am grateful, gentlemen, for the expression of confidence in my Government to which you have given expression. I thank you once more warmly for your cordial words of welcome, and I thank you for your Address as well as this beautiful work of art in which it is enclosed.

THE KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

[The following is the Viceroy's reply to the Address presented by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce] :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—It is a great pleasure to me to have been able to come and see with my own eyes thus early in my career in India, a city which means so much to the Indian Empire. But a personal knowledge of local surroundings, even though it be a slight one, is worth a great many volumes of notes in dealing with local problems, and it will be a great advantage to me not only to have seen your city and port, but to have met you, gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce, and to have heard from your own lips what you have to say about some of the big questions in which you are interested.

I am afraid you will find that the Government of India cannot always give you what you want, but you may rest assured that we attach very great weight to your views on the various questions that arise concerning the commerce and industry of the country. The growth of

your prosperity and importance is truly amazing, and I see from figures that have been supplied to me that the value of your trade has almost trebled in the last ten years from Rs. 14½ crores to nearly Rs. 43 crores. A little less than a quarter of this is due to your coasting trade, and another quarter represents your foreign imports, while your foreign exports constitute almost exactly half the total amount; and I have no doubt that the money that has been spent upon irrigation in the Punjab and in Sind is largely responsible for this increase of prosperity. The subject of the great projects for adding to the area of irrigated lands in Sind has for sometime past been engaging the attention of the Government of India. Speaking broadly, the proposal is to divide the Indus in Sind into three reaches with three weirs near Mithankote at Sukker, and probably somewhere near Kotri, with the necessary canals taking out above them. Of these three large systems the central, that at Sukkur, has been held to be the most important, and it has therefore received consideration. An estimate of the barrage across the Indus and for a portion of the Canal work has recently been received from the Government of Bombay and is now under

examination. I fully appreciate the importance of these Sind projects. It is most desirable that the Indus River should be so harnessed that full advantage should be taken of the supplies, both to improve the precarious nature of the present inundation canals and in order that fresh areas may be brought under command. But it will be understood that with schemes of such magnitude, involving the expenditure of crores of rupees, it is essential that estimates should receive the most careful consideration, and I can only say at the present time that I hope to be shortly in a position to address the Secretary of State with regard to the first of the Sind projects, that at Sukkur, which has been specially mentioned in your Chamber's Address. A Viceroy has to deal with many questions—some of great complexity and some of world-wide importance. But among them all there are few so fascinating as these great irrigational schemes, and I shall always use my utmost endeavours to push them forward whenever I can.

I am aware, gentlemen, of the very strong views you hold in regard to the extension of the metre-gauge system to Karachi. The question whether the necessity has yet arisen is one

about which it is possible to say a good deal on both sides. You will not expect me to justify in detail the decision that has been given, but the Government of Bombay, the Railway Board and the Department of Commerce and Industry concurred in it so unanimously that no other answer was possible. It has long been admitted that the brake of gauges ought to be eliminated when the traffic justifies it, and the point you have taken about the reservation of an appropriate site for a metre-gauge terminus is deserving of close consideration. I understand that you have made a representation about it to the Bombay Government and I will take an early opportunity of informing myself as to how the matter stands.

It is impossible to say at present whether, or when, the proposed Trans-Persian line will become a realisable project. The present situation in the south of Persia is not one which offers much encouragement to capitalists to finance such schemes. But the question of the construction of this line has been under the serious consideration of the Government of India, and the claims of Karachi as a terminus of a line passing through Southern Baluchistan have not been lost sight of.

I understand that your Address was drafted before the 17th March, when the question of light-houses was dealt with in the Legislative Council of Bombay. From the answer there given you will have learnt that other reasons than the absence of lights have existed to account for some of the wrecks to which you refer, and that H. E. the Naval Commander-in-Chief has gone so far as to say that a light-house at the Hajamras mouth would be a mistake. It would be difficult, in the face of so high an authority, for the Government of India to approve of this scheme. But I understand that the Hon'ble Member for Commerce and Industry, who has recently been among you, discussed the question with you in some detail, and I should prefer not to commit myself about it until I have learnt the upshot of those discussions, and until I have had an opportunity of considering the Report on the subject now on its way from the Government of Bombay to the Government of India.

You have referred to the question of the retention of a substantial portion of the Gold Standard Reserve in gold in India. It is a complicated matter of great importance, and I have to thank you for bringing the subject to

my notice. I find that it has been the subject of anxious consideration more than once between the Government of India and the Secretary of State, without whose concurrence it would be obviously impossible to make any change in the existing arrangements. But I shall be glad to convey the opinion to which you have just given expression to Lord Morley.

The disposition and capacity of your Government buildings is a matter in which you naturally take a very special interest, but it is not one in which the Government of India can help you much, except by sympathetic consideration of any schemes which may require their sanction. The Government of Bombay are primarily concerned, and I understand that orders have actually been given for the preparation of plans and estimates for some part of the scheme, and I feel assured that that capable Government will do whatever may be right and possible for the removal of the inconvenience of which you complain.

I will not detain you longer, gentlemen, except to thank you heartily for the welcome which you have extended to me, for the Address you have presented and for the handsome casket in which you have placed it.

THE KARACHI MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY.

[The Mahomedan community of Karachi presented an address of welcome to Lord Hardinge who made the following reply]:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY OF SIND.—I offer you my grateful thanks for the Address of Welcome which you have just presented to me, and if it is a source of gratification to you that I should have taken so early an opportunity of visiting your Province, I can assure you it is no less a pleasure than a profit to me to see with my own eyes something of every portion of this vast Empire, and to make personal acquaintance with the different communities who have for the time being been entrusted to my charge.

Though a formal interchange of speeches such as this cannot afford so intimate a mutual acquaintance as is to be desired, I am glad of the opportunity that it affords to you of setting before me the needs and aspirations of your community to which I am ready to lend a sympathetic ear. It is, in my brief experience of India, a surprise to me what a horizon is

occupied by the aspiration after better education. It has forced itself into prominence alike in the Council Chamber at Calcutta and in the Addresses I have lately received in the Punjab. It figures largely in the daily Press, and here I find it again in the Address which you have just presented to me. I cannot regard it as anything but a healthy sign, for it means that all sections of the community are alive to the necessity of keeping abreast of the times, and equipping themselves and their sons as efficiently as possible to take their proper place in the social organisation of the community. If you are aware that Government are anxious to do all they can to foster these aspirations, I feel that a grave responsibility rests upon me to see that the efforts now being made are wisely directed, not only because I am the Head of the Government of India, but also because I owe it to my grandfather's memory to endeavour, as far as in me lies, to shape to the best ends a policy in the initiation of which he took so keen an interest. You know that a Member for Education has recently been appointed, but you will hardly expect him to evolve a cut-and-dried scheme at short notice. There is much to consider and much to discuss. We have arrived

at a critical point where any mistake may be far reaching, so that caution is essential, and some delay unavoidable before attempting changes in our existing system. My Government have, however, set aside a very large sum for educational purposes during the current year. I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the success and efficiency of the Madrassah-tul-Islam which I am looking forward to visiting, and I do not think you could give me any more striking guarantee of your earnestness in the cause than is contained in your proposal to tax yourselves in order to meet the cost of the better education of your community. If it comes before me, it shall have most sympathetic consideration at my hands. But do not be misled into thinking that Government service is the best reward or the best stimulus for education. Surely, your own improvement is its own reward, and if you can produce men of character, ability and energy and qualities such as ensure success in the ordinary walks of life, you need not doubt that you will get your full share of Government posts, for you must know yourselves that your Commissioner is only too willing and anxious that your community should be properly re-instated in the Public

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Service of this Province. The question is, therefore, one of which the solution remains in your own hands, and I trust that, as time goes on, I shall see your community rise equal to the occasion.

I have dealt elsewhere with the other subjects to which you have referred, and there only remains the pleasant task of thanking you again for the cordial welcome you have given me, and expressing to you the pleasure with which I have listened to your words of loyal devotion and of happy anticipation at Their Majesties' far-distant visit to these shores.

THE SIND HINDU SABHA.

[The Sind Hindu Sabha presented an address of welcome to Lord Hardinge to which he replied thus]:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SIND HINDU SABHA,—
The major portion of your Address is devoted to matters of business with which I will attempt to deal in due order, but before I proceed to do so, let me offer you my best thanks for the kind welcome you have extended to me.

I have heard with satisfaction your expression of gratitude for the introduction of the Reforms with which the Government of Lord Minto will always be associated. I do not suppose the regulations are perfect, and even if they were perfect, I am quite certain that they would not give satisfaction to every one, such as they are. They have been in force for only a very short time, almost too short to speak with authority as to their working, but they are now under examination by the Local Governments, and if it should be shown that there are any matters in which improvement seems possible, with due regard to

the pledges given and the various interests concerned, Government will not be backward in taking the necessary action. I should, however, like to take this opportunity of saying what a high opinion I have formed of my Legislative Council as at present constituted. A great many questions have been asked, and attention in the way of resolutions has been drawn to a large number of subjects of very great importance. Government have looked at them from fresh points of view, and have, when possible, been glad to meet half way the views of Hon'ble Members, in some matters, and to explain publicly why they could not do so in others. The debates have been marked by good sense and moderation and, above all, by tolerance—and in this country, where too many creeds and races jostle with one another at close quarters, tolerance is a most desirable and important virtue.

The question of direct postal communication between Aden and Karachi is one of very lively interest. It has, in the past, been the subject of frequent representations by the Chamber of Commerce and the Municipality of Karachi, and you now take it up as a matter that concerns not only this city, but Sind and the whole

of Northern India and Bengal. Lord Curzon dealt with this matter very fully when he was here ten years ago, but if you desire to have the question re-examined, I promise you that any well-considered recommendation you may make shall have the careful consideration of Government.

Your next subject is that of railways. I have grave doubts whether it would be possible to justify a direct railway route between Bombay and Sind as a profitable concern from a commercial point of view, and I may tell you that the result of a very careful survey made some years ago showed that it would not even repay its working expenses. As regards the route, I have a suspicion that His Highness the Rana of Cutch would prefer that you should leave him to decide for himself whether a through railway would be good for his State. When the question was under examination it was decided that a route running to the north of Cutch would be preferable. But though I recognise that there would be advantages in direct through communication with Bombay, I am afraid I cannot, in view of the unfavourable results of the survey I have mentioned, hold out any hopes that such a line is likely to be under-

taken, at any rate in the near future. I will not weary you by repeating here what I have already said to the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the extension of the metre gauge system to Karachi.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the question of the duration of Settlement guarantees has never been under the consideration of the Government of India in particular relation to Sind. Mr. Younghusband tells me that the Bombay Government fully realise the advantages of a longer term than ten years, and that there is a steady tendency in that direction. Some of your ten years Settlements have been allowed to continue without relapsing after the expiry of the period fixed, and in some of your most recent Settlements the period has been for fifteen instead of ten years. In the recent fluctuating conditions of Sind it is impossible to see clearly ahead for a long term of years, and I believe I am right in saying that your cultivators not infrequently secure a reduction of rates after ten years, when it appears that the expectations of irrigational facilities upon which the Settlement was based have not been fulfilled. I am afraid that I cannot promise you

threshed out more thoroughly. Your Commissioner tells me that no representation on the subject has ever been made to him, and while the number of Sessions cases increased, I learn that the number of Civil suits instituted was actually fewer in 1910 than in 1909.

When the draft of your Address was shown to me, my attention was at once caught by the natural wish to which you have given expression that His Most Gracious Majesty might be pleased to take his departure from India by way of Karachi. I was aware that His Majesty already had other arrangements in contemplation, but I thought it right to lay before him the request that you have made and ascertain his pleasure. I am afraid that I must disappoint you. For, much as His Majesty appreciates your loyal desire in this matter, he is sorry that he cannot conveniently arrange to embark at Karachi on his return journey, and I am confident that the spirit which moved you to make the request will enable you to accept it with cheerfulness.

I am sorry that I have not been able to be more responsive to the wishes you have expressed on various topics. I am glad that you should have spoken out freely what you have in your

DHARAMPUR KING EDWARD CONSUMPTIVE HOSPITAL.

[H. E. Lord Hardinge opened, on the 29th April, the King Edward Consumptive Hospital founded by Mr. B. M. Malabari and which owed so much to the generosity of the Patiala State. H. H. the Maharajah of Patiala read an address in the course of which he gave a history of the Home and announced that he would give one lakh of Rupees in commemoration of the opening by the Viceroy, and requested His Excellency to formally open the sanatorium. In response to this invitation the Viceroy spoke as follows]:—

YOUR HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
—It is considerably more than a year ago since the first patient was admitted to this institution and to some it may seem rather a work of supererogation that I should come here after the lapse of so many months to declare it open. The only answer I can find to that criticism is that an institution so full of service to suffering humanity is worthy of the little trouble and attention implied by an opening ceremony, that I at any rate could not possibly have opened it before, and that it would have been an

offence against common-sense to have postponed making use of it until it could be opened with due form.

It is a little ceremony that I perform with particular pleasure for more than one reason. It is a privilege to be associated, in however small a degree, with any effort that is made to reduce the sum of suffering in the world, and this particular institution, so happily set in peaceful and beautiful surroundings, will, it may be hoped, in a long career of usefulness save many a poor soul from suffering and death. Its name has been very happily chosen, for I had the honour of knowing His late Majesty King Edward well enough to be aware how, amid all the cares of State, he ever had close to his heart the alleviation of sickness and the mitigation of pain.

I have heard with the greatest pleasure the list of generous donations which you have mentioned, but among them all your own liberality is most conspicuous as this asylum has received so much from you already, both in the free gift of sites and the promise of support, and of a hospital for the bad cases. I hope it may always receive your fostering care in the future. This beneficence entitles you to the thanks of

all to whom philanthropy is more than a mere word, and is a happy omen for the welfare and happiness of your subjects. This Sanatorium is to be congratulated in having as its Superintendent Mr. Mazumdar, who, throughout a long career of public usefulness as a Government servant, was ever ready to help those around him and now devotes his honourable retirement to so worthy a cause, and all praise is due to Drs. Bannerji, Ganguli, and Patke, who give their services gratuitously, as well as to those whose support and subscriptions have enabled so happy an idea to be brought to fruition. I am not certain whether one of these gentlemen is always present, but I venture to emphasise the supreme importance of proper medical supervision in an institution of this character, so that not only the patients may have the best treatment available, but also reliable observations may be recorded not only for the benefit of the patients themselves, but for the increase of scientific knowledge of the disease and its treatment, and last, but not least, every sanitary precaution may be taken. I believe that patients come here to be treated from all parts of India and thus testify to the great need which exists for a Consumptive